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THE NEW  
STATISTICAL ACCOUNT  
OF  
SCOTLAND.

BY  
THE MINISTERS OF THE RESPECTIVE PARISHES, UNDER THE  
SUPERINTENDENCE OF A COMMITTEE OF THE SOCIETY  
FOR THE BENEFIT OF THE SONS AND  
DAUGHTERS OF THE CLERGY.

VOL. IX.

FIFE—KINROSS.

WILLIAM BLACKWOOD AND SONS,  
EDINBURGH AND LONDON.

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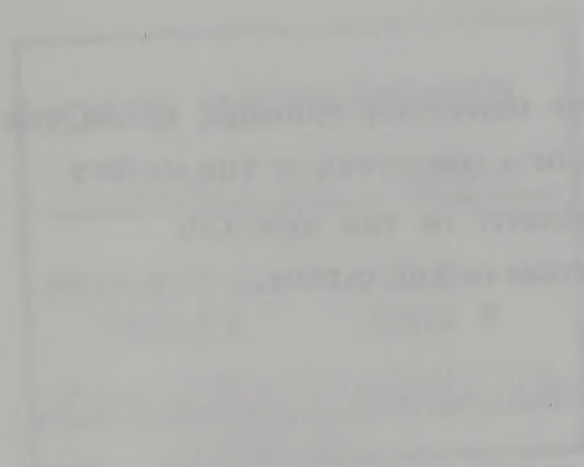
THE NEW

# STATISTICAL ACCOUNT

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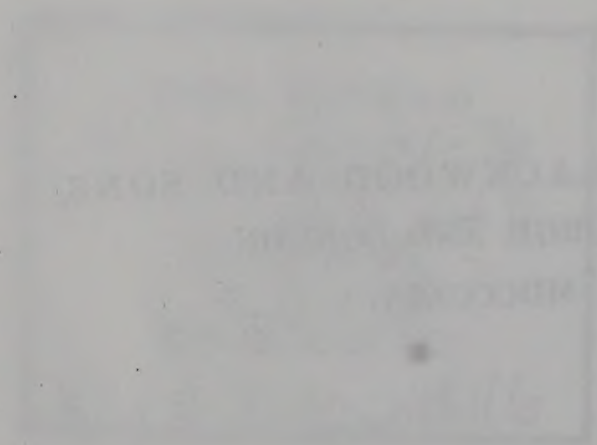
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BY



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# CONTENTS

ALDENHALL,	790-146
ALDRIDGE,	147
ALDRIDGE,	237
ALDRIDGE,	714
ALDRIDGE, ELTON,	455
ALDRIDGE, WALTER,	611
ALDRIDGE, WALTER,	103
ALDRIDGE, WALTER,	781
ALDRIDGE, WALTER,	940
ALDRIDGE,	446
ALDRIDGE,	577
ALDRIDGE,	774
ALDRIDGE,	404
ALDRIDGE,	204
ALDRIDGE,	312
ALDRIDGE,	420
ALDRIDGE,	517
ALDRIDGE,	91
ALDRIDGE,	200
ALDRIDGE,	651
ALDRIDGE,	450
ALDRIDGE,	1
ALDRIDGE,	778
ALDRIDGE,	141
ALDRIDGE,	207
ALDRIDGE,	271
ALDRIDGE,	234
ALDRIDGE,	127
ALDRIDGE,	779
ALDRIDGE,	200
ALDRIDGE, FORT-DE-GRAND,	81
ALDRIDGE,	225
ALDRIDGE,	304
ALDRIDGE, AND ALDRIDGE,	220
ALDRIDGE,	719
ALDRIDGE,	275
ALDRIDGE,	104
ALDRIDGE,	207

## FIFE.





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## CONTENTS.

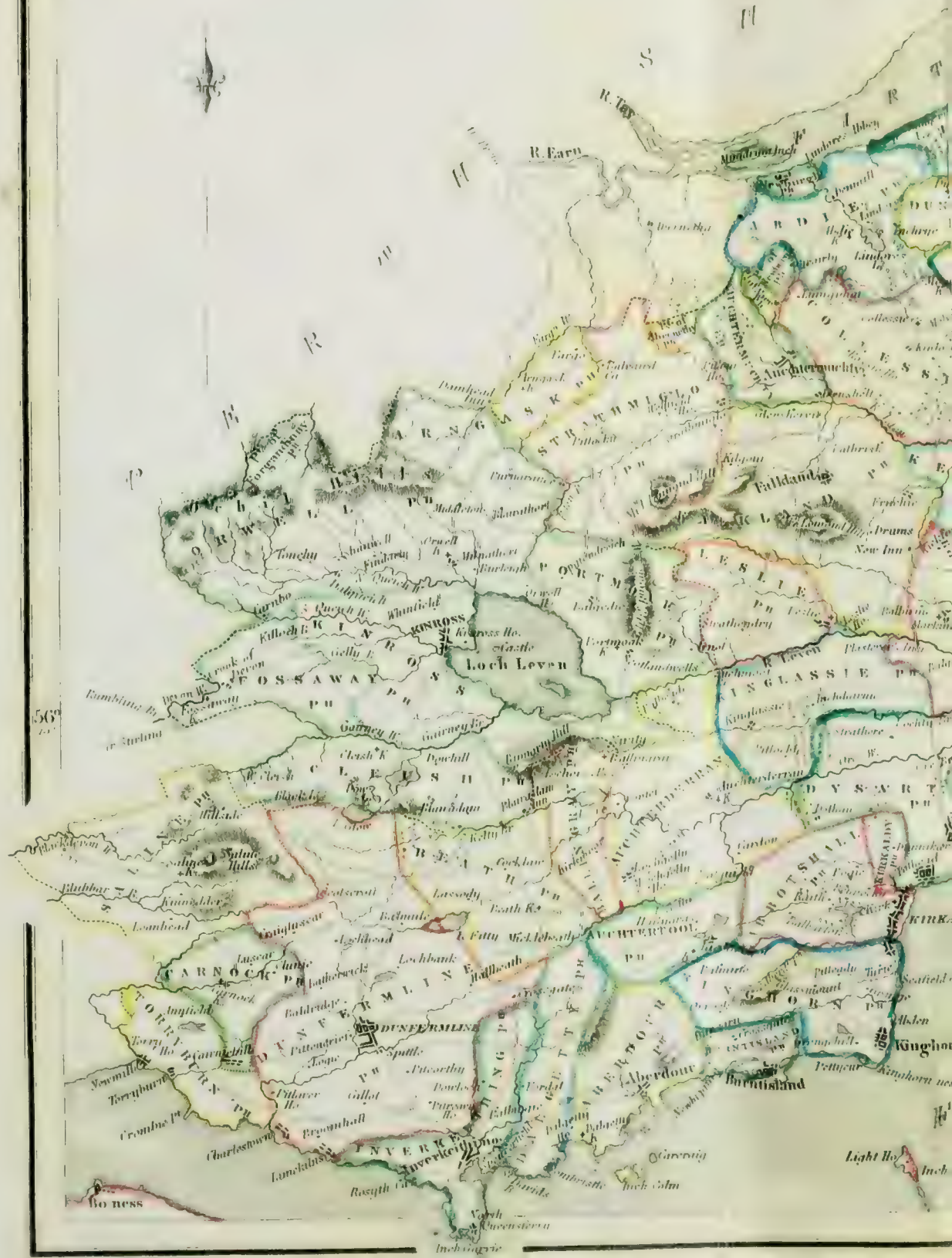
---

ABBOTSHALL,	PAGE-146
ABDIE,	47
ABERCROMBIE,	337
ABERDOUR,	716
ANSTRUTHER EASTER,	295
ANSTRUTHER WESTER,	611
AUCHTERDERRAN	165
AUCHTERMUCHTY,	781
AUCHTERTOOL,	249
BALLINGRY,	446
BALMERINO,	577
BEATH,	174
BURNTISLAND,	404
CAMERON,	304
CARNBEE,	913
CARNOCK,	690
CERES,	517
COLLESSIE,	21
CRAIL,	959
CREICH,	631
CULTS,	558
CUPAR,	1
DAIRSIE,	770
DALGETY,	181
DUNBOG,	205
DUNFERMLINE,	821
DUNINO,	356
DYSART,	127
ELIE,	278
FALKLAND,	920
FERRY PORT-ON-CRAIG,	81
FLISK,	595
FORGAN,	505
INVERKEITHING AND ROSYTH,	230
KEMBACK,	719
KENNOWAY,	375
KETTLE,	102
KILCONQUHAR,	315
KILMANY,	532

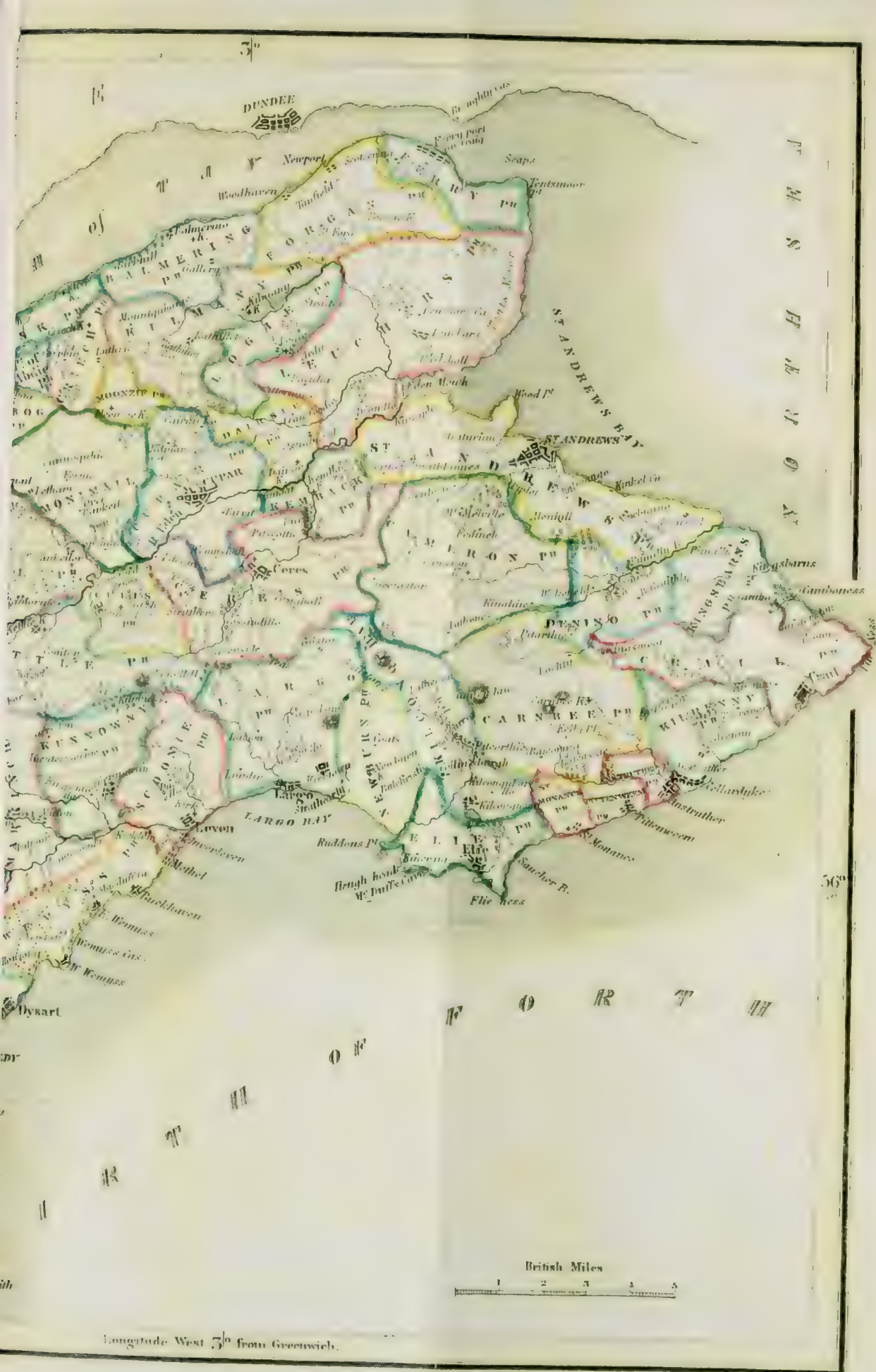


KILRENNY, . . . . .	PAGE 970
KINGHORN, . . . . .	800
KINGGLASSIE, . . . . .	194
KINGSBARNs, . . . . .	89
KIRKCALDY, . . . . .	740
LARGO, . . . . .	434
LESLIE, . . . . .	111
LEUCHARs, . . . . .	217
LOGIE, . . . . .	426
MARKINCH, . . . . .	655
MONIMAIL, . . . . .	37
MOONZIE, . . . . .	786
NEWBURGH, . . . . .	56
NEWBURN, . . . . .	124
PITTENWEEM, . . . . .	983
ST ANDREWS, . . . . .	449
ST LEONARDS, . . . . .	497
ST MONANS, . . . . .	337
SALINE, . . . . .	798
SCOONIE, . . . . .	264
STRATHMIGLO, . . . . .	775
TORRYBURN, . . . . .	727
WEMYSS, . . . . .	390

# FIFE & KINROSS SHIRES.







# PARISH OF CUPAR.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. LAURENCE ADAMSON, D.D. FIRST MINISTER.

THE REV. JOHN BIRRELL, A. M. SECOND MINISTER.\*

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish consists of the two parishes of Cupar and St Michael of Tarvit, which were conjoined in the beginning of the seventeenth century, in 1618,—the boundary of separation betwixt them having been the small river of Eden, as it then flowed.† It is situated about the middle of the county or peninsula of Fife, and is nearly equidistant, about 10 miles, from Newburgh, Ferry-Port-on-Craig, St Andrews, and Largo. It contains the town of Cupar, which was made a royal burgh, invested with extensive privileges and properties at an early period, and is described by Cambden as “Burgus insignis.” Though divested now, by the liberality or prodigality of its rulers, of nearly all its extensive properties, as a burgh Cupar enjoys still the privileges that are allowed by the late Reform Act, and ranks as the county town of Fife.‡

The parish is of a very irregular form, and is much indented by the parishes of Dairsie, Ceres, and Monimail. It measures from east to west nearly 5 miles, and about the same from north to south. Its surface is beautifully diversified by rising grounds, and intersected by the river Eden and the Lady Burn, or St Mary’s Burn, which meet at an acute angle at the eastern extremity of the town. It is bounded on the north and east by Dairsie and Kemback; on the south by Ceres; on the west by Cults and Monimail; and on the north by Moonzie and Kilmany.

*Meteorology.*—The climate of this parish is mild and salubrious.

\* Drawn up by the Rev. John Birrell, second minister of the parish.

† Having been a few years ago straightened, a small portion of St Michael’s is situated to the north of the Eden, near the County-Hall.

‡ By the ancient charters to the town of Cupar, preserved in the Register Office in Edinburgh, whereof an authentic duplicate is deposited with the town clerk, the magistrates possessed a much more extensive jurisdiction over the surrounding parishes than what is now or has been for a long time exercised.



Though the town of Cupar and the lower parts of the parish that lie along the banks of the Eden are liable to be enveloped in hoar frost at certain seasons, particularly in the spring and autumn, yet the air is in general dry and exhilarating. As the town is situated little more than twenty-five feet above the level of the sea, the temperature and climate are warm and agreeable. In consequence of this, there seems to be no particular disease incident to the parish. And while there are some instances of extreme old age in it,—two or three persons upwards of 90 and one above 100,—there are many of an almost youthful vigour at the advanced period of threescore and ten and fourscore years.

*Hydrography.*—The small river of Eden, flows from west to east through the parish, as well as the strath to which it gives its name. It rises about sixteen miles west, near the north side of the West Lomond. It is joined, at the eastern extremity of the town, by the Lady Burn, which flows from north-west to south-east till the point of junction. The bed of the Eden is very level, in consequence of which it flows sluggishly (*lene fluit aquis.*) Though Cupar is six miles from the sea, at Edenmouth, the river has a fall of only twenty-five feet. It is not available, therefore, for the purposes of machinery to the extent that the volume of water which it contains would justify, were its descent more rapid. Through the enterprise of modern times, however, nearly every fall has been seized upon and turned to account. And though there is not a wheel moved by it within the parish that has more than a breast-fall, yet there are several employed for the movement of powerful machinery. From entering the parish till leaving it, it is made available to the extent of eighty horse power. The course of the Lady Burn is more brisk and rapid; but the volume of water is in general so small, that, except by much damming up and saving, it cannot be made to serve any other purpose than that of driving thrashing-mills. The junction of these two streams at the town gives to it a lively appearance, and contributes greatly to its cleanliness and healthfulness. There are many perennial springs in the parish. And at any place of the town, by sinking to the depth of 20 or 30 feet, an abundant supply of water can be procured, fit for all domestic purposes except washing.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—While the surface of the parish is diversified and undulating, the geological construction and the character of the minerals is also various. Along the banks of the Eden on either side, white sandstone abounds, lying in strata of

various degrees of compactness according to their depth, and dipping on both sides towards the south. Along the banks of the Lady Burn, a sandstone conglomerate prevails, consisting of large masses of quartz and other flinty ingredients, and resembling a coarse puddingstone. Surmounting this rock, and at irregular and undulating distances from the Lady Burn, there runs a very singular mound, composed (when examined) of fresh water gravel. Beginning at the distance of nearly a quarter of a mile from the point where the Eden and the Lady Burn meet, this mound runs in a serpentine direction, till it terminates, as it rises, abruptly, in what is now called the School, but anciently the Castle-hill. About the middle, there is a peak of greater elevation than the rest, which is called the Moot-hill, and on which, according to tradition, the Earls of Fife used to hold their councils of war, and dispense the awards of justice. Were one to look to appearance, or to listen to report without attending to the magnitude of this mound, he might conclude, as has been sometimes supposed, that it is artificial. But, looking to the size, this supposition is instantly checked. And extending the view across from the Castle or School-hill to the opposite side of the Eden, and remarking the same serpentine and mound-like appearance continuing, there is left no room to doubt that the mound is a natural deposit formed at some remote period, and broken through, as it now is, by the action of the Eden. Above this mound, and on the north and south sides of the Eden, there is an immense bed of clay of a very excellent quality, and peculiarly fitted for the making of brick and tiles, for which it has long been used. Recently, it has been employed for the making of coarse earthen-ware, and is found to answer well. Higher up, and behind this embankment, as it must have been till it was worn away by the water, lie what are called the Wards,—an extensive and fertile plain, all now under the plough, but wearing decided marks of having been at one time under water, and forming the bottom of a large lake or basin, which has been emptied and laid dry by the wearing down of the embankment. The name of Ferry still attaches to some of the places on the sides of this plain; and even at the period of the Reformation it was of such an impassable nature, that, while the royal forces lay on the hill or Garley Bank on the south side, and the Lords of the Congregation lay encamped on a moor on the opposite, this marsh formed a barrier of separation betwixt them sufficiently strong to prevent them from advancing to or molesting each other.



Above the gravel and sandstone strata which lie along the banks of the Eden and Lady Burn, trap rock, greenstone, and clinkstone, abound and are quarried extensively. Neither coal nor lime are to be found in the parish, nor in any part of the Strath of the Eden or How of Fife,—although both of these valuable articles are in abundance, and of excellent quality, about seven and ten miles to the south.

The soil of the parish is very variable, from a light sandy soil to that of a strong and heavy clay. In general, however, it is good and fertile, and through the means of long cultivation, and from a full command of manure, it is highly improved, and produces the finest crops.

*Zoology.*—The rarer species of birds to be found in the parish, are the jay, the golden crested-wren, the willow-wren, the water-hen, the water-ouzel, the kingfisher, the long-tailed titmouse, the goat-sucker. \*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is a good map of the parish lately executed and lithographed by John Govan, Esq. W. S. common agent for the heritors in adjusting the localities,—and which, though not scientifically correct, gives a good view of the conjoined parishes. There is also a good plan of the town in Wood's Burgh Atlas, published several years ago.

*Antiquities.*—The ancient Castle of Cupar stood on the termination of the mound already described as running along the course of the Lady Burn. This is represented by Buchanan as a place of very considerable strength in the time of Edward Baliol. During the invasion of the English at that time, it was seized upon, and occupied by them till they were driven by famine to abandon it and return across the Forth to their own country. Its position at the junction of the Eden and Lady Burn favours the opinion, that, at a time when these streams were not so well guarded within their banks as they now are by artificial means, it must have been a fortress of considerable strength, and in a rude state of warfare must have presented considerable resistance to an assailing force. While workmen were employed some years ago in improving the line of road that runs to the east, several skeletons were found, which were conjectured to be those of the soldiers who had fallen while con-

\* A pack of fox hounds is kept at Cupar as head quarters, subscribed for by several gentlemen in the county, and as there are abundance of woods in Fife, the sport is generally good. There is also at Cupar a small subscription pack of harriers.

ducting some assault upon this fortress. Now, however, there remain no vestiges of the fortress. The hill has long been held as the property of the town, and occupied as the site of the schools and academy. In the times of Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, it is said to have been used as the *play-field* for the exhibition and the acting of his dramatic pieces. The name of Castle-hill has now passed into the more peaceful name of School-hill, and the plays exhibited daily, are those of youths when just "let loose from school."

Under this hill, on the south, stood a convent of Dominican or Blackfriars, belonging originally to the Island of May, and afterwards transferred to St Andrews, which, like its more warlike neighbour, has now been completely removed. That part of the chapel "built of cut freestone," which at the writing of the last Account is said to have been standing, has been taken away to make room for a very handsome street. Near or on the very site of the chapel of the convent, stands now the Episcopal chapel, St James's, which is a very handsome building, meant to form part of the street when completed. And lately, when the grounds of the convent were trenched, to answer the purposes of a kitchen-garden, many receptacles of the dead were disturbed, and their skeletons dug up.

Another striking remembrancer of the olden times is a small conical eminence on the opposite side of the Eden, and lying a little further down the river than the School-hill. This, which, at the time of the last Account, was under cultivation, is now covered with a young thriving plantation belonging to the proprietor of Tarvit. It was the site of the church of the parish of St Michael, and formed the burying-ground of that parish. A few years ago, when an alteration was making upon the public roads, many of the depositaries of the dead were broken open, and the remains of their inmates brought to view after a repose of at least two centuries. This receptacle of the dead has thus been again converted into common earth. In the same manner, has the burial-ground of the parish of Cupar, which lay at a remoter period at a distance of fully a mile to the north-west of the town, and of the present burial-ground, where the church also stood, been converted again into common earth, and scarcely does a vestige remain to shew where it was. At the time of the last Account, it formed part of what was called the glebe of the first minister of the parish. An excambion has since been made to accommodate the proprietor of Springfield, in whose policy it lies. With the exception of its being a little more elevated than the surrounding field, nothing remains to tell



the passing stranger that the dead lie there. To shew, however, the effect of prejudice upon the mind, it may be noticed, that there are still individuals to be found who have an unwillingness to pass the spot under night.

The present burial-ground having been set apart and consecrated in 1415, when the church was removed from its former situation, and built nearer the town, can boast of few ancient monuments. One of the most ancient is that erected to the memory of Mr William Scott, who was for many years first minister of Cupar, and who built the spire of the steeple at his own expense, and according to his own design. This monument shews the burial-place of the ministers of the parish. But, in consequence of the action of the weather upon the stones of which it is composed, the inscription is completely obliterated. It is said to have been executed in Holland, and erected by the relatives of Mr Scott, who belonged to the family of Balwearie, shortly after his death, and must have been thought a work of taste in that time. As there is none to take an interest in its repair, it bids fair to go soon into complete decay. There is also a monument erected to the memory of some of those who suffered for conscience sake in the times of Charles II.\*

In the east end of the outside of the present church there is a niche shewing where St James's altar once stood. Within the church in the western wall, lies a full length statue of Sir John Arnot of Fernie, who fell in the last crusade. And in the same wall is a very handsome marble tablet, erected to the memory of the late

\* This is a simple stone, modern in its appearance, and bears this inscription. "Here lies interred the heads of Laur. Hay, and Andrew Pitulloch, who suffered martyrdom at Edinburgh, July 13th 1681, for adhering to the word of God and Scotland's covenanted work of reformation; and also one of the hands of David Hackston of Rathillet, who was most cruelly murdered at Edinburgh, July 30th 1680, for the same cause." On the obverse of this stone are the following lines, with the date at the top, 1680.

Our persecutors filled with rage,  
Their brutish fury to aswage  
Took heads and hands of martyrs off,  
That they might be the people's scoff;  
They Hackston's body cut asunder,  
And set it up a world's wonder  
In several places, to proclaim,  
These monsters gloried in their shame.

At the bottom of these lines there is this intimation, "Erected July 13th 1792." On inquiry, however, it is found that this present stone, which certainly was erected in 1792, was put up as a substitute for another which had become quite decayed, and which is supposed to have been erected immediately after the events recorded. The epitaph and the lines on the obverse are said to be the same as those that were inscribed upon the original stone. This stone is newly painted once a year, as it has been, ever since it was set up, by private individuals, at their own expense.

Dr Campbell, writer of the last Account, by his sons Sir George of Edenwood, and Sir John, the present Attorney-General.

The ancient cross of Cupar still stands, and is seen from a great distance on the top of the hill of Wemyss Hall. It was carried up and placed there by the late Colonel Wemyss, father of the present proprietor of Wemyss Hall, when it had been removed from its original position to make way for the improvements that were making upon the streets. It is a straight round column surmounted by the town arms, and placed now upon a strong pedestal, composed of the rock of the hill on which it stands.

*Parochial Records.*—The records of the kirk-session reach back to the year 1648. The minutes of session contain many curious and interesting views of the character and manners of the times. Excepting a chasm from 1661–1695, they are complete. The registers of baptisms, deaths, and marriages, reach back to 1654, and are brought down regularly, and without interruption, to the present time.

*Modern Buildings, &c.*—The modern buildings of the town are, the Town and County Halls, and an Episcopal chapel, standing in the New Street, otherwise called St Catherine Street, and forming part of it. Also, a town and county jail, standing on the opposite side of the Eden from the town, but built in the style of the New Street, and according to a plan by which it was to ornament that street. Its present site, however, and the plan on which it is built, do not correspond. None of the modern buildings can boast of much elegance. The County Buildings, when the plan by which they are now being enlarged shall have been completed, will be very spacious, and afford such accommodation for the county meetings, and the meetings of the Sheriff-courts, and Justice of Peace Courts, and also for the keeping of the public records, &c. of the county, as will reflect great credit upon the county. In the County Hall, there are two very elegant portraits lately procured by the county. One of these is a portrait of the late General John Earl of Hopetoun, by Raeburn. The other is that of Thomas Earl of Kellie, Lord Lieutenant of Fife, by Wilkie. They were procured by the gentlemen of the county in testimony of the high respect in which they held these noblemen, and in return for the high services which they rendered, by their attention to the business of the county.

The most ancient mansion-houses in the parish are those of Carslogie and Wemyss Hall. The former was built upwards of four



hundred years ago ; and, having long served as the family seat of the Clephanes, has now passed by purchase into the hands of the Rev. Mr Laing, who resides at his living in Northumberland. The latter, according to Sibbald, was newly built in the beginning of last century, and has been lately enlarged by the present proprietor, James Wemyss, Esq. of Winthank. The famous iron hand of the Clephanes is said to be still in preservation, and in the possession of the heirs of the family. There is said, also, to be a charter, granted to the family by Malcolm Canmore, in the possession of the heirs of the family.

The modern mansion-house of Kilmaron, the country seat of James Cheyne, Esq. Edinburgh, built in the castellated form, according to a plan by Gillespie, is the only house that lays claim to any degree of magnificence. The other houses are plain, and suited to the modest and unpretending requirements of the proprietors. They are, the house of Tarvit, the property and family residence of James Home Rigg, Esq. of Downfield ; Springfield, that of Colonel Don, E. I. C. S. ; Dalyell, that of John Dalryell, Esq. of Lingo ; Hilton, that of William Tod, Esq. ; Cairnie Lodge, that of General Foulis, C. B., E. I. C. S. ; Pitblado, that of George Russell, Esq. ; Prestonhall, that of R. Swan, Esq. ; Middlefield, that of John Russell, Esq. ; Foxton, that of Andrew West, Esq. ; Balas, that of Alexander Bogie, Esq. ; Ferrybank, that of Colonel Craigie, E. I. C. S. ; Bellfield, that of Captain Moncrieff of Balcurvie ; Blalowne, that of John Govan, Esq. W. S. ; and Westfield, that of Mr Walker of Pittencrieff.

### III.—POPULATION.

When the parishes of Cupar and St Michael were united in 1617, the population of the two did not much exceed 1000. Since that period it has continued to increase gradually and progressively.

Population in 1801,	-	4463
1811,	-	4758
1821,	-	5892
1831,	-	6473

One mode of accounting for this gradual increase is the disposition, engendered in some measure by necessity, on the part of the labouring classes, to repair to towns when old age and infirmity render them unfit for the labours of the field. Another mode of accounting for it is, the increase of trade and manufactures of all kinds in the town, and the facility that exists of obtaining all the comforts and conveniences of life at a cheap and easy rate. It is

to be remarked, too, that the increase has taken place principally in the town of Cupar, and in the two villages of Springfield and Glaidney Cotton,—the one on the western, and the other on the southern extremity of the parish. In the landward part of the parish, the population has diminished rather than increased.

Number of population in the town of Cupar is about	5000
That of Springfield and neighbourhood,	500
Glaidney,	300
the landward part,	673
Number of families in the parish,	1482
chiefly employed in agriculture,	142
in handicraft,	766

It is impossible to give any accurate average of the births in the parish, as the dissenters of all kinds are in the practice of declining to register their children in the parish register. The funerals that take place in the parish amount to about 149 annually. Of these, some are brought from adjoining parishes; while many of those that die in the parish are carried out of it for burial. The number of marriages, or at least of proclamations for marriage, amounts to 56 or thereby.

*Land-owners.*—The parish can boast of no nobility resident in it, and none connected with it except the Earl of Glasgow, who, as heir to the Crawford estates, ranks as an heritor. There are, however, residing in it 14 families of independent fortune. All these are landed proprietors, and with an yearly income from their land of L. 50 and upwards.

There is nothing peculiar in the strength, size, complexion, or other personal qualities of the inhabitants. There are only two cases of confirmed derangement in the parish. Of late, the attention of the public to any instance of temporary derangement has been particularly favourable to their speedy recovery. By sending the patients, or, if paupers, by applying to have them sent, immediately to the very excellent and well-conducted asylum at Dundee, the effect has been truly gratifying. Of five or six that have been sent within these ten years, all have been restored, after one or two quarters' confinement, perfectly cured. There are four or five fatuous cases in the parish; one of blindness, occasioned by accident; none deaf and dumb.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The state of agriculture in this parish is the most approved. The number of acres is 5545, imperial measure. Where every acre is arable, and either under the plough or covered with plantations in various stages of advancement, every spot wears the ap-



pearance of the highest cultivation. As a great many of the farms are in the natural possession of the proprietors, and either managed by themselves or by skilful and experienced overseers, it may be said, that nothing remains to be done in the way of improvement. There are no wastes to be reclaimed, no commons to be divided, and no marshes to be drained.

*Rental, &c.*—The total valued rent of the parish is L. 7237, 15s. 7d. Scots. Of this, L. 1912 Scots is assumed by the burgh as the value of the burgh lands, and other property in the town; and in this they allow themselves to be liable for repairs of church and manse. This sum, however, holds no place in the cess books of the county. The real rental, as taken in 1829 for a process of augmentation before the Teind Court, was L. 9977, 11s. 9d. Sterling. This rental was subsequently examined and generally acquiesced in by all concerned, as a fair rule for laying on the cholera assessment, in 1832. This, therefore, may be taken as the actual rental of the whole parish; and if the number of acres is taken to be 5545, imperial measure, we have the average rental per acre to be L. 1, 15s. 11 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. This includes what is under wood. Making a deduction for what is under wood and inarable, perhaps L. 2, 10s. per acre for what is under cultivation is as near an approximation to the truth as any that can be found. According to its quality, or its distance from the town, the land varies from L. 5 to L. 1, 10s. Some small spots have let within these seven years as high as L. 7.

The average rent of grazing during the year, may be set down at L. 6, 6s. per ox, and L. 1, 5s. per ewe or full-grown sheep. The rate of a mason's labour is 2s. 6d. and that of a carpenter's 2s. 3d. a day.

*Live-Stock.*—The common breeds of oxen are the ancient Fife breeds, which have gained the prizes at all the great cattle-shows in Scotland, and so excel other breeds, that the Highland Society have doubts about allowing them to enter for competition. Some specimens of the Teeswater breed have been introduced, and do very well; but there seems to be a partiality for the old stock rather than for the new. And this arises from the impression that the former are more hardy, equally profitable for feeding for the butcher, and more useful for all the purposes of the dairy. As sheep are little attended to except by those who feed their own mutton, nothing can be said of this kind of stock.

*Husbandry.*—The mode of husbandry in the parish is much

the same as what prevails over the county. It is the five or six year's rotation, and as the soil is suitable both for wheat and turnips, the most luxuriant and productive crops are everywhere to be found. The general duration of leases is nineteen years, with entry at Martinmas. The farm-buildings are neat and commodious, and suitable to the requirements of farms where all is under the plough.

*Quarries.*—There are four quarries in the parish of excellent white sandstone, and two of greenstone fit for road metal and coarse kinds of building.

*Produce.*—It seems quite impossible to state the gross amount of agricultural produce. The number of heritors liable to pay stipend, or rather the number of small properties in the hands of heritors so liable, amounts to 172. Any attempt at determining the gross produce, could lead to nothing but a distant approximation to the truth. It is no uncommon thing, however, to find land yielding  $3\frac{1}{2}$  quarters of wheat, 6 do. of barley,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  do. of oats per acre. Of potatoes, of which a great many are grown to be shipped for the London market, it is not very uncommon to find 50 or 60 bolls of 28 stones on the acre. Fifty bolls an acre, however, may be taken as an average crop of this valuable root.

*Manufactures.*—There are three spinning-mills in the parish, one of which is driven entirely by water, another partly by water and partly by steam, and a third altogether by steam. Of these the first two are occupied in spinning flax, and the last in making thread. The number of hands employed in the three amounts to 236. Besides these there are two corn and barley mills, and two flour mills, all well employed. The corn, barley, and flour mills at Cupar, especially since they were feued by the burgh of Cupar to the late John Inglis, Esq. of Colluthie, have been celebrated as the best in Fife; and have been employed by bakers and meal-dealers from a great distance. There is a snuff-mill, to which tobacco is sent to be manufactured, not only from all parts of Fife, but also from the counties to the north. It is said that about 60,000 lbs. of snuff are manufactured there every year. And whether it is owing to the greater consumption of that article, or to the growing celebrity of the mill, it has been found necessary of late to increase the power of the mill, and to add a steam power to that of the water, by which it was formerly driven. There is also a washing or fulling mill. There are two tan-works; one for hides and another for sheep skins. To this latter a manufacture



of glue has been added within these few years. There are three breweries; a brick and tile-work, at which coarse earthen-ware is made; and a rope-work.

Though there are no linen manufactures upon a united scheme, and no power looms, yet the manufacture of linen is carried on to a considerable extent, and the number of weavers and others employed is great. There are at least ten distinct manufacturers with their capitals embarked in the linen trade. By these different manufacturers, there are employed within the parish not less than 600 weavers. And as every two weavers require one person to wind for them, the number employed and earning a comfortable subsistence from this trade may be reckoned at 900, all living in their own houses, and labouring in their own workshops. Besides those that are employed within the parish, the different manufacturers have weavers employed in the various towns and villages in the neighbourhood throughout the county. The linen manufactured is of various kinds and qualities, and is exported to the East and West Indies, as well as to all parts of the continent of Europe and of America.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets.*—Cupar has long been known as a leading and important market-town. Besides the weekly corn-market, which is held every Thursday, there are a great many fairs for the sale of all kinds of stock, and domestic and agricultural utensils of all sorts. Till within these few years, these fairs took place on particular days of the month, and thus occasioned great confusion. Now, by an arrangement that has been generally approved of, they are held on the Thursday next to the day of the month on which they used to be held. Besides being a market-town, Cupar is also a post-town. And lying on the great road that leads from Edinburgh to Dundee and the north of Scotland, through Fife, there are three coaches that regularly pass through it every day except Sunday, to the north and to the south. There are also coaches to St Andrews and to Largo, where there is now a steam-boat ferry to Newhaven. So that, with all the conveniences of excellent markets, the inhabitants of the town and parish can boast of as many advantages as are possessed in any town or parish of its size in the kingdom. The town of Cupar, along with St Andrews and Crail, the two Anstruthers, Kilrenny and Pittenweem, send a member to Parliament.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated as nearly as

may be in the middle of the parish. It is a large and commodious, though by no means an elegant building, according to the notions of elegance that are now entertained. It was built in 1785, and is in the plain and unattractive style of that period. It was originally built to accommodate 1196; but, by some slight alterations since made, it accommodates now 1300 sitters. This, however, is far from being sufficient for a population of 6473. And did the law not define the extent of the accommodation that parishes should have, it might be enough, to show the inadequacy of the accommodation in this instance, to mention that, in July 1835, the number of those that communicated at the dispensation of the Lord's supper was 1237. Another building of the same dimensions as the present would not furnish the requisite accommodation. To obviate the evils arising from this want, an application was made by the kirk-session to the heritors two years ago to hire the Mason's Hall, for the benefit of those who could not be provided with seats in the church. This they very readily did, and service is now performed in it by the collegiate ministers every Sabbath, to a congregation of not less than 300. The sittings in this place of temporary accommodation are all free. The sittings of the church are all occupied, and, with the exception of about 150, which are free, are all either let at a small rent, or are in the natural possession of the proprietors and their tenants. To get a permanent remedy for the want of accommodation, a subscription was entered into last year by a number of spirited and well-affected individuals, among whom were almost all the heritors, to build another church in a convenient part of the town. The subscriptions were nearly completed. An application was made to the Presbytery to sanction the erection of the building, according to the conditions proposed by the subscribers. The Presbytery approved and granted the application. But an application made to the General Assembly of 1835, to sanction the whole proceedings, was met by an injunction from that venerable court, which paralyzed all the proceedings of the subscribers and of the Presbytery; and whether the building will now go on is very questionable. It is very much wanted. It was anxiously wished for, by the church-going people of the parish. And without it, the population of the parish, as they are daily increasing, must either go off, against their will, as they have hitherto done in many instances, to the dissenters, or they must sink, as in many other large towns, into a state of heathenism, and show all the evils of spiritual darkness in the



midst of the very light in which the people of this country have so long rejoiced.

Though there were originally two parishes in this locality, there is only a piece of land of about three acres got in exchange for the old kirk-yard, and which goes under the name of glebe for the first minister, belonging to the living. Till the decision of the House of Lords in the case of Ayr, there was not even one manse. Since that decision, a manse has been built for the first minister. The second minister, though his stipend is paid out of the teinds, has neither manse nor glebe.

Since the last Account was written, the number of dissenting chapels has very much increased, in consequence, no doubt, of the increase of the population, added to the want of accommodation in the parish church. There is an Episcopalian chapel; two chapels belonging to the Relief connection; one to the Associate Synod; one to the Old Light Burghers, or Original Seceders; one to the Baptists, and one to the Glassites. Till the late voluntary movements began in the country, the different dissenting bodies stood well affected to the church; and, while they retained their own particular tenets, lived in a kindly understanding with the church. The mass of the people are still well affected as before, and show a disposition to go hand in hand with the church in all those matters which tend to promote peace and good feeling. The exact number of Dissenters and Seceders in the parish, it has been found impracticable to ascertain.

Divine service is, in general, well attended in the Established Church, and also in the dissenting chapels. The average number of communicants in the church is 1237. The stipends of the Established ministers are 18 chalders each, half meal half barley, with L. 10 each for communion elements. The stipends allowed by their people to the dissenting ministers are from L. 80 to L. 120 per annum.

There is a Bible Society and a Missionary Society in the parish, but supported by contributors from adjoining parishes. Their contributions are not great, and not on the increase. The Bible Society suffered by the Apocryphal controversy a few years ago; and the Missionary Society is suffering now by the voluntary disturbances, and by the misunderstanding that these have produced betwixt churchmen and dissenters.

*Education.*—There is not, and, strictly speaking, never has been,

a parochial school in the parish. Up till the year 1823, there were two burgh schools, which were under the sole patronage and direction of the magistrates,—the masters' salaries being paid out of the funds of the burgh. In 1823, a subscription was entered into, to have an academy erected according to the approved model of modern times. An arrangement was made betwixt the magistrates and the subscribers, by which the former merged their rights of patronage and direction, and agreed to be represented at the meetings of the subscribers or patrons of the academy, by certain members of their own body. They agreed, also, to pay a certain proportion of the teachers' salaries along with the patrons, and to grant the use of the buildings belonging to them as a corporation, for the academy. This arrangement still subsists. By the munificence of the late Dr Bell, the estate of Egmore in Galloway has been left under trustees, consisting of the Lord Lieutenant of the county, the Lord Justice-Clerk, the Sheriff of the county, the Provost, the Dean of Guild, and the two parochial ministers of Cupar, to be managed for the purpose of forwarding the interests of education according to the Madras system. By special stipulation, Dr Bell wishes his institution to be amalgamated, under certain conditions, with the academy as already existing. Hitherto the arrangements have not been completed. The burgh have it in their power to make arrangements which may free them and the community from a great expense, and to secure for them a great advantage under this trust. But whether they will see their interests, remains to be proved. In the meantime, the business of education is conducted by Dr Bell's Trustees, in concert with the patrons of the academy. In the academy, there are three departments of teaching: English in all its branches; the languages, ancient and modern, with geography; arithmetic in all its branches and writing. The salaries of the masters are good, and the school-fees small; but, as there is nothing as yet permanently fixed, and as Dr Bell's Trustees are burdened in the meantime with the payment of several annuities, and are therefore not yet come to the use of those funds which may enable them fully to develop their plans, it is premature to be more particular at present. The community are fully alive to the benefits of education. Dr Bell's trustees are required to be liberal. The result, consequently, must in time be highly salutary.

Besides the academy, Dr Bell's trustees have opened three schools in the town, for the benefit of the industrious classes, at which education is to be had at the most moderate rates; and in



cases where the parents are not able to pay these rates, it is to be had, as Dr Bell stipulates, upon making proper application, for nothing.

There are, in addition to all this, four female schools, and one promiscuous school, in the town. Of the female schools, one is under the patronage of the magistrates and ministers, as trustees of a fund of L. 500, left by the late Dr Gray of Paddington Green, London. And at Springfield, on the property of David Maitland M'Gill, Esq. of Rankeillor, there has been erected, and also endowed by him, a very handsome school for the benefit of that portion of the parish. Under these circumstances, there is not a child in the parish of five years of age and upwards, but is able to read, or is at school acquiring that power. And, with the attention that is paid to religious instruction in the different schools, there is reason to believe, that, as the people have hitherto improved in their conduct, and morals, and religious character, through the facility of acquiring education,—so, through the blessing of God, they will continue to improve.

*Literature.*—There is one public library in the parish, founded in the year 1797, and which has increased gradually till now it contains upwards of 4000 volumes. Dr Gray also bequeathed his library to the subscribers, which contains many scarce and curious books. Its only regular source of increase is the annual subscriptions of the proprietors. There are two public reading-rooms, one frequented by the better classes, the other by the mechanics. There are five stationers' shops in the town. There are now two printing-presses. One of these, under the management of the late Mr Robert Tullis, had the credit of having sent out Hunter's immaculate editions of the classics. And there are two newspapers published weekly ;—one at the office of Mr Tullis, who was the first to publish a newspaper in Cupar, many years ago ;—another at the office of the Fifeshire Journal, recently set up.

*Charitable Institutions.*—There is an alms-house, with a yard attached, containing 82 falls 9 ells Scotch measure. This is supposed to have been set apart for the benefit of the poor of the parish, about the time that the church was removed from its former site, and placed where it now is in 1415. There is no exact trace of its original. It is in the management of the kirk-session, and, so far as their records go back,—to the year 1648,—it is found that it was under the same management as it is at present, kept in repair by the session, disposed of by the session for the accommodation

of their poor, and treated in all respects as if it were their sole and inalienable property. The house contains accommodation for ten or twelve paupers, living two together in the same apartment. And the yard is let every year for the behoof of the session. As there is a great want of room for burying in the present churchyard, the session have resolved to feu or let out the yards for burying-ground according to a plan which will reflect credit upon the place.

In addition to this place of accommodation for the poor, which is of very ancient standing, the late David Knox, Esq. of London, who was a native of Cupar, has left the sum of L. 3000 Sterling, for the purpose of building and endowing an asylum for females above fifty years of age, who have seen better days. It is judiciously to be placed under trustees not officially connected with the town, and, according to the conditions expressed in Mr Knox's will, it promises to be of great benefit. The plan of the building has been already drawn out by an eminent architect in London, the site has been fixed upon, and, through the active benevolence of the testator's sister, Miss Knox, the institution will, in all probability, be completed and occupied in the course of the present year.

The trades' corporations were formerly the only friendly societies that existed. Their funds, however, being now all squandered away, except those of the weaver trade, who have a piece of ground which they are feuing out for building, they contribute very little, if any thing at all, to their decayed members; and it is no uncommon thing to find one who once plumed himself on the honour of some civic office, either becoming himself, or allowing his widow to become, a burden upon the funds of the session.

*Savings Bank.*—There is a savings bank; but from the very low rate of interest which is allowed upon the money deposited in it, it meets with but little support. The deposits altogether do not exceed L. 150.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The parish of Cupar presents still an engaging specimen of the working of the poor laws of Scotland. Great as the population is, there is no such thing as any regular assessment for the poor. They are supported, therefore, by the collections at the doors of the Established Church,—by a poors' box carried through the town on Saturdays,—by the dues upon marriages and births,—by the exertions of a female society for the benefit of aged and decayed females,—by a fund of L. 450, left under the management of the town by the late Dr Gray already mentioned,—and by voluntary charity, exercised by private individuals



and families towards the well-deserving of their poorer neighbours. Twice during the last ten years, the heritors of the parish have been called upon to subscribe a sum in aid of the funds of the session, and at each of these times have subscribed L. 100, according to their valued rent. Altogether, the sums distributed by the kirk-session from church collections and poors' box among the poor upon their roll amount yearly to L. 326, 9s. 0½d. or thereby. They make no distinction between the members of the church and dissenters, even though the latter do not contribute to their funds, and they allow to each pauper a sixpence or a shilling, or sometimes more, a week, according to their circumstances, making their distributions, in as far as they can, auxiliary to the industrious exertions of the individuals. The female society distributes about L. 35 annually, and the magistrates out of Gray's fund distribute L. 18 annually.

The number of the poor upon the roll of the session who receive a weekly allowance is 61. The number of those who receive occasionally is 68. Those that receive from the female society amount to 30 females; and those that receive from Gray's fund to 16 males and females. As many of those that receive from one fund receive also from another, the number of poor altogether may be rated as amounting to 150, and the total sum distributed among them, as amounting to L. 379, 9s. 0½d. The amount raised by church collections is L. 261, 9s. 0½d.; by the poors' box L. 65. As the kirk-session do not hold themselves liable for house rents, these are often raised by private application made by the needy themselves for subscription; and there is generally a distribution of coals during the winter, procured by subscriptions or donations. Upon the whole, it may be said that they are well provided for. They are at the same time contented and industrious, and grateful,—very different from what the poor are found to be in parishes where the system of assessment is followed. Several cases have occurred of individuals refusing to take parochial aid, even when offered and pressed upon them. And some have occurred, of individuals declining the allowance which has been for a time made to them, after they found themselves so improved in their circumstances as to be able to do without it.

*Prison.*—There is a prison in the parish for the use of the town and county. The number of prisoners confined in it last year was 37. Of these, 15 were for debt, and 22 for stealing, assault, and such crimes as commonly occur in a populous country. The com-

mitments before trial were 91. The prison is sufficiently secure, having been built upon the most secure plan within the last thirty years; but the accommodation that it affords is uniformly condemned as most unworthy of the town and county. The lodging is bad, and reckoned unhealthy,—there is no room for the classification of criminals,—there is no chapel or place of worship attached; and consequently, any attempt to reclaim or improve those that are once committed to it, becomes absolutely hopeless. The most unpractised being lodged in the same cells with the most hardened; instead of a penitentiary, the prison may be said to be actually a school for confirming the one and ruining the other. Though the government and superintendence by a jailor acting under the Sheriff of the county and the Magistrates of the burgh be good, yet the construction and the defective accommodation destroy all their endeavours to soften or to reclaim its unhappy inmates.

*Fairs.*—These are numerous, as already stated.

*Inns.*—Inns and alehouses within the burgh amount to 49; the number of alehouses in the country part of the parish amount to 4,—making a total of 53, besides several licenses granted to dealers in spirits, who do not keep public-houses.

*Fuel.*—The fuel uniformly used is coal, which is to be had in great abundance from the southern and western parts of the county. The distance being six or ten miles, it is, however, not remarkably cheap. A railway would be of great service to the town, in furnishing the means of having this very essential necessary brought and laid down at a more reasonable rate. And as it is now in contemplation to open a railway through Fife, it is to be hoped that the public will soon have the benefit. Cupar being nearly in the direct line of communication between Edinburgh and Dundee, it is hoped that the Royal Mail will be established to run by Cupar as soon as some water piers are formed on each side of the Frith of Forth, and which are now in contemplation.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

When Buchanan wrote his history, he described St Andrews as “*Fanum Andreæ oppidulum memorabile propter bonarum artium studia*,” and Cupar as the town or oppidulum “*quo reliquis Fifani ad jus accipiendum conveniunt*.” The characters thus given to these towns they still retain. St Andrews is still the seat of learning; and, the local courts, and the public records of the county being all kept in Cupar, it is still the seat of the law and equity



of the county, and there are no less than 28 procurators before the Sheriff-courts, who reside and carry on a respectable business, and hold a respectable rank in the town. Since the last Account, the number of these procurators has increased from 12 to 28. Allowing to each of them 2 apprentices or clerks, there are no less than 84, all busied in directing the course of justice. Since the time of the last Account, a Sheriff-court has been established at Dunfermline for the western district.

The principal change that has taken place in the town since the last account is the removal of the jail, and the town and county halls, so as to open up the streets and improve the thoroughfares. The consequence is, that Cupar wears now the appearance of a clean and comfortable English town. Being lighted up with gas, during the night it has a very attractive appearance. Its dimensions have been much extended by the suburbs called the Brae-heads, New Town, and Lebanon.

The principal change that has taken place in the parish is the improvement of the cross roads, which are now, with few exceptions, kept like turnpikes. The villages of Springfield and Glaidney have also been much extended since last Account, and are still increasing. There have been three handsome stone bridges thrown over the Eden to increase the communication betwixt the north and south sides. And should the railway that is now talked of be carried through, it seems impossible to conceive the advantages that would accrue to the town of Cupar and the neighbourhood. The people are much the same in character as they were forty years ago, —greatly influenced by politics, and very excitable, but upon the whole far more temperate and reasonable than in many other places.

*March 1836.*

# PARISH OF COLLESSIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN MACFARLANE, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries—Extent.*—THIS parish is bounded on the north by Abdie; on the south, by Kettle; on the east, by Monimail; and on the west, by Auchtermuchty. The village is easily accessible from any quarter, being near the place where the two roads cross each other by which the parish is intersected,—the one leading from Newburgh to Kirkaldy; the other from Cupar to Kinross. The points of the parish most distant from each other, and which are between north-west and south-east, include a space of eight miles. The average breadth of the parish is about four miles.

*Name.*—Collessie has always been the name of this parish. Although, from a few relics of antiquity that have been found in the neighbourhood, but principally, I believe, from the resemblance between the word and the Roman Colosseum, a classic origin has been claimed for it, it may with more truth be referred to a Gaelic source. The name is a compound Gaelic word, signifying, *the bottom of a glen*. This derivation is corroborated by the fact, that it is exactly descriptive of the situation of the village which has given name to the whole parish.

*Soil, &c.*—There is great variety in the quality of the soil. The northern and north-west parts of the parish are by far the most fertile. In these districts, there is a good deep sharp soil, principally upon a whinstone bottom. From the position of the ground, too, situated upon the sloping sides of the hills that form the northern boundary of the parish, it has a good southern exposure; and, being in a high state of cultivation, it produces early and excellent crops. The eight farms of Hall-hill, Collessie-mill, Corn-hill, Meadow-wells, Cold-wells, Weddersbie, Wester Rossie, and Lumquhat, including in all about 1560 Scotch acres, present from the road to Auchtermuchty an appearance of considerable natural beauty, and great agricultural skill and industry. Although this



may be described as the best part of the parish as to depth and fertility of soil, there are some fields of good ground both for tillage and pasturage, besides what have been mentioned, upon the properties of Rossie and Kinloch. Upon the estates of Rankeilour, Ramornie, and Pitlair, too, as well as belonging to the farms of Drumtenant upon the banks of the Eden, and the Bowhouse and Shields of Lathrisk in the eastern and southern districts, there are some parts scarcely inferior in soil and cultivation.

Towards the centre and southern district of the parish, however, the soil for the most part becomes light and sandy. It is occupied to the extent of some miles by fir plantations. Much of the ground here does not seem capable of being turned to better account. Some recent attempts, at least, to clear and cultivate it have proved unsuccessful. The wood, however, is of considerable value. Besides the country purposes to which it is applicable in fencing, and even roofing and flooring, large quantities of it are shipped from the port of Newburgh to Newcastle and other parts of England for planks and coal-props. When full grown it may bring from L. 40 to L. 50; when cut down at half-growth, it may be worth at the rate of about L. 20 per Scotch acre.

The climate, which, in consequence of extensive draining and enclosure, and an advancing state of cultivation, has of late years been greatly improved, is dry and healthful. There are no distempers or epidemics peculiar to the parish. Many instances of great age having been attained by the parishioners might be adduced in evidence of the salubrity of our atmosphere. There is at present an elder in the parish, who is in church every Sabbath, and who was born in the year 1745. Cases of no remote date are upon record, of parishioners having lived above a hundred years.

*Hydrography.*—Since the draining of Rossie Loch, which was partially done in 1740, and more perfectly accomplished at a subsequent period, there is no lake worthy of notice in the parish. That was once, indeed, the largest sheet of water in the county, abounding in perch and pike. There are several rivulets that diversify and enliven the landscape; among which, one of the most considerable is the water of Keilour, which forms the eastern boundary of the parish, dividing it from Monimail. The only stream we have, entitled to the name of a river, is the Eden, which gives its designation to the strath, and glides with noiseless current through the central vale or How of Fife. This river runs about three miles along the southern boundary of the parish, dividing it

from that of Kettle. Even this stream is not more than twenty-five feet broad in any part of its course along the confines of the parish; nor does it become considerable till it reaches the Guard Bridge in the parish of St Andrews, where it forms an estuary of the German Ocean.

*Geology.*—As no mines of any description are wrought in this parish, and no considerable portion of the strata or formation of its rocks is exposed to view, it presents no feature of interest to the eye of the geologist. The only organic remains of any consequence of which I have heard being found in the parish, were the large branching horns and almost the entire skeleton of an elk of great size, which were dug up a few years ago in the marl pits of Pitlair, in the eastern part of the parish. At the same place were found several segments of the oak, denoting great circumference and corresponding length in the trees of which they had formed a part; probably a portion of the primeval timber that grew in the district, and so few traces of which are now to be found.

There is excellent whin or greenstone open in the parish; it is much used for building, for which purpose it is at once durable and ornamental. Sandstone has also been exposed on the property of Rankeilour, though not wrought to any considerable extent. Great quantities of marl too, both shell and clay, are found in the parish. It was formerly much used, and some of it even shipped to the Carse of Gowrie. It is now little in demand, except for top-dressing and forming compounds for grass. It may perhaps have been formerly applied in too large quantities, or the cropping may have been too severe after it.

*Botany.*—I have been kindly furnished by one of the heritors with the following notice of the rarer plants found in the parish. It may be proper, however, to mention, in reference to this enumeration, that, although part of the banks of the Black Loch are in this parish, the loch itself lies in the adjoining parish of Abdie.

There is nothing in this parish which would, *a priori*, seem to indicate a great variety in its botany; but, when more accurately viewed, we find that, being bounded by water on the north and south, and occupied in the centre by a wood of several miles in extent, in which there are several large marshes, few parishes are in this respect more favourably situated. A very brief view of the rare plants to be found within it will not disappoint the botanist.

The *Hippuris* is found at Monkstown, and near the edges of the Black Loch; the *Scirpus sylvaticus* is found on Edensmuir, and



the *Eriophorum polystachion* is common there and in the other marshes of the district; the *Alopecurus geniculatus*, var.  $\gamma$ . is found at Lawfield; the *Agrostis alba*, var.  $\beta$ . (the Fiorin grass) on the banks of the Eden; the *Glyceria fluitans* is not uncommon, and is noticed here as forming the chief grass in a meadow at the north end of the Black Loch; the *Poa nemoralis* grows in patches on Edensmuir; the *Triodia decumbens* is to be found on the farm of Birns; the *Lolium temulentum* is occasionally met with. It is supposed the intoxicating and noxious effects of its weeds is exaggerated. The smooth variety of the *Scabiosa arvensis*, a plant which, Sir James Smith says, has never been seen in England, grows on Ballomill. The *Potamogeton lanceolatum*, var.  $\beta$ . (without any floating leaves) grows on the Black Loch; and *P. pusillum* in the old bed of the Eden near Pitlessie Bridge, and it is not uncommon in the district. The minute *Radiola millegrana* is found on Edensmuir, on those places overflowed in winter. The *Cynoglossum officinale* is found near Trafalgar. The *Echium vulgare* is only mentioned, because dangerous to bees, as it tears their wings, and should be eradicated by each bee-master. The *Solanum dulcamara*, supposed by Hooker to be rare in Scotland, grows in many places of the district; it grows on the banks of the Eden, on the farm of Lawfield. The *Gentiana campestris* grows at Daftmill and near Ramornie. The poisonous *Conium maculatum* is to be found near Trafalgar. The *Sambucus Ebulus* grows near Kinloch, where it was found by the late Dr Malcolm. The beautiful *Drosera rotundifolia* is found plentifully in the marshes of Edensmuir, and a dead fly is not unfrequent in its leaves. *Luciola congesta* (*Luzula congesta*, Hooker,) is found near Ramornie. The *Rumex sanguineus* grows near Melville. The *R. acutus* grows in many places; it is used by the country people as a vulnerary. The *Calluna vulgaris* and *Erica tetralix* and *cinerea* are all occasionally found with white flowers; and the variety of *E. cinerea*, named by Loddiges *E. cinerea*, also *purpurea*, grows in considerable quantity near Ramornie. The *Polygonum aviculare* is noticed, because horses are particularly fond of it, and it will grow on the poorest soils. The *Pyrola minor* is the only *Pyrola* as yet found in the parish; it grows on many places of Edensmuir. *Arenaria rubra* grows on Hetherinch. The *Sedum Telephium* on Ballomill, and near the Eden. A white flowering variety of *Lychnis Flos-Cuculi* is not uncommon. The *Cerastium aquaticum* is rare in this part of the country. A single plant of it was found near Pitlessie dam-dike.

The *Lythrum salicaria* grows on Hetherinch, on the banks of the Eden. The *Reseda lutea* has been found on Ballomill. The *Spiræa Filipendula* grows on the farm of Birns;—this beautiful plant is only found in two other places in the county, viz. North Queensferry and Aberdour. The *Tormentilla reptans* has been found in the willow grounds near Ramornie. The beautiful *Nymphæa alba* and *Nuphar lutea* are found abundantly in the Black Loch; the latter also grows in the river Eden, near Pitlessie Bridge. The *Ranunculus Flammula*, var.  $\delta$ . is very common in Edensmuir. The *R. auricomus* is met with in Melville plantations. The *Trollius Europæus* (the Luckan gowan of Allan Ramsay) grows in considerable quantity on Ballomill. The *Mentha viridis*, not yet noticed as a native of Scotland, grows betwixt Collessie and Kinloch. As it has been met with at two other places within the county, it seems an undoubted native. The *Galeopsis versicolor* is plentiful in the parish. The *Thymus serpyllum*, var.  $\gamma$ . grows on Edensmuir. The *Digitalis purpurea* var. *flore albo* is found on Peterhead, where the *Camelina sativa* has also been found growing. The *Nasturtium terrestre* is found at a pond near the Earl of Leven's cottages, and on the edges of the Black Loch. The *Barbarea vulgaris* grows near Collessie, on the burn. The *Erodium cicutarium*, both with pink and white flowers, is pretty common; also the beautiful *Geranium pratense* is found near Pitlessie Bridge. The *Malva moschata* grows near Lumquhat. The *Genista anglica* grows plentifully on Edensmuir and near Ramornie. The beautiful *Anthyllis vulneraria* will be found near the road betwixt Hetherinch and Daftmill. The *Trifolium officinale* has been found on Lawfield. The *Leontodon palustre* is found occasionally in the marshes. The *Hieracium murorum* is found on the walls. The *H. sylvaticum* is frequent in the woods. The *Cichorium Intybus* grows at Daftmill, and is not uncommon in the district. The *Bidens tripartita* grows on Drumtennant, and at the south end of the Black Loch. The *Gnaphalium dioicum*, *uliginosum*, and *germanicum* grow on Edensmuir. The *Senecio lividus* and *sylvaticus* grow in the parish; the former sparingly, the latter abundantly. These species are perfectly distinct, and cannot be mistaken. The *S. aquaticum* is also to be found. The *Orchis bifolia* grows near Monkstown; the *O. mascula* on Lawfield; the *O. latifolia*, *maculata*, and *Conopsea* on Edensmuir. The *Sparganium simplex* grows on the edges of the Black Loch only 2 or 3 inches high; while in Pitlessie dam it has leaves 6 or 8 feet long. There is a con-



siderable number of *Carices* on Edensmuir: the *C. pulicaris* grows near Ramornie; the *C. stellulata*, *curta*, *pendula*, *flava*, *præcox*, *piluligera*, *paludosa*, and *riparia* on Edensmuir; while the *C. hirta* grows near the Black Loch. The *C. arenaria*, so common on the sea coast, is found on the lands of Ramornie, running among the sand at a distance of ten miles from the sea. *Littorella lacustris* grows round the Black Loch. The *Poterium sanguisorba* was found near Birns farm. The *Betula alba*, var.  $\beta$ . grows at Rankeilour, while the *Pinus sylvestris*, either planted or native, covers the lands of Edensmuir. Besides the cultivated willows, such as the *Triandra*, *fragilis*, *decipiens*, *Russelliana*, *rubra*, *cinearea*, *viminalis*, and *alba*; the *repens*, *aquatica*, and *caprea* are found in their native situations. *Myrica Gale* grows abundantly in the marsh at Muirside. The *Aspidium Oreopteris* is found on Edensmuir, along with the *Blechnum boreale* and the *Lycopodium clavatum*. *Botrychium lunaria* is found on the pastures of Ballo-mill.

It would be improper here to enter the names of the other cryptogamic plants, but it may be mentioned that it is supposed there is no parish in Scotland where there is an equal number of agarics; 125 species were gathered previous to the dry summer in 1826. They have not been so numerous since that year; but many sorts which had not been seen for years have again made their appearance, so that it is probable they will now rather exceed than fall short of that number.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Pictures.*—Under this head it may be mentioned, that there is in the possession of Charles Kinnear, Esq. of Kinloch, three original paintings by our countryman Wilkie. They are interesting not only as some of the earliest productions of his genius, but as indicating by their history, the good feelings of his heart. They were painted for the late Mr Kinnear, and presented to him by the artist, in testimony of the kindness and friendship he experienced at Kinloch in early life, and on this account are much valued by the family. They are in that peculiar style of his art in which he has acquired the greatest celebrity. It was by the largest of these pictures, indeed, that he first came into notice. The subject is “Pitlessie fair,” containing upwards of 150 figures, the labour of a year. The size is 3 feet 9 inches by 2 feet. The grouping is admirable. The principal figures in the piece are characters who were well known in the neighbourhood during the early life of the artist, which gives a

greater interest and value to his painting as a record of the times. It is considered equal in merit to some of the more recent and most admired productions of his pencil.

*Eminent Men.*—Among the eminent characters connected with this parish, is the distinguished courtier Sir James Melville, who figured during the reign of Mary Queen of Scots, and who, according to his own relation, performed so many feats of dexterous diplomacy between the rival queens of Scotland and England. He was proprietor of the estate of Hall-hill. This property, it appears, originally belonged to Henry Balnaves, who, in 1542, was Deputy-Keeper of the Privy-Seal, and the following year, Secretary-Depute. The lands of Hall-hill were by him disposed of to Sir James Melville, who was third son to Sir John Melville of Raith, one of the early promoters of the Reformed faith. The property continued in his family till the reign of Charles II., when it was purchased by the Earl of Melville. No trace of the house now remains, and the ground where it stood forms part of the present enclosures of Melville.\*

The celebrated Dr Hugh Blair commenced his ministry in this parish, to the pastoral charge of which he was ordained on the 23d September in the year 1742. I have in my possession a list of the names of the ministers of the parish as far back as 1578. There have been fifteen ministers since that year, previous to the present incumbent, of whom it appears that four were removed to other charges. One, Mr John Ogilvie, was ejected during the attempt to establish Episcopacy in Scotland before the Revolution of 1688; and the rest seem to have died in the parish.

*Antiquities.*—There are several antiquities in the parish as to

\* The family burying-ground of Sir James is in the churchyard of Collessie, upon one of the walls of which the following inscription can still be decyphered, though much obliterated by the hand of time.

1609.

Ye · loadin · pilgrims · passing · langs · this · way,  
 Paus · on · your · fall, · and · your · offences · past.  
 Hou · your · frail · flesh, · first · formit · of · the · clay.  
 In · dust · mon · be · dissolvit · at · the · last ·  
 Repent · amend · on · Christ · the · burden · cast ·  
 Of · your · sad · sinnes · who · can · your · savls · refresh ·  
 Syne · raise · from · grave · to · gloir · your · grislie · flesh ·

Defyle · not · Christ's · kirk · with · your · carion ·  
 A · solemn · sait · for · God's · service · prepar'd ·  
 For · praier ; · preaching · and · communion ·  
 Your · byriāl · should · be · in · the · kirk · yard  
 On · your · uprising · set · your · great · regard ·  
 When · savll · and · body · joynes · with · joy · to · ring ·  
 In · Heaven · for · ay · with · Christ · our · head · and · king ·



which no very certain information is possessed, but which might furnish interesting subject of investigation to those who devote themselves to such inquiries. One of the most prominent of our memorials of past times is a mound, consisting of a cairn of stones, a short distance south of the village of Collessie, usually called the *Gask-hill*. It is about twelve feet above the level of the ground. It has been supposed to be the remains of a Roman station. It consists of loose stones, now grown over with turf. A few years ago a sword, about eighteen inches in length, with one edge, and so formed that it might be used either for cutting or thrusting, but much corroded by time, was dug up from among the stones. Some fragments, too, of human bones were found here, enclosed by a few large flat stones. From their appearance, position, and mixed state, and their having evidently been subjected to the action of fire, it would require less effort of fancy, than antiquarians sometimes exert, to suppose these remains to have consisted of what the Romans called the *ossilegium*, or gathering up of the bones, after the body was burnt.

About a quarter of a mile east of the village, and within the grounds of Melville, there is one of those large whinstones placed on its end, so frequently seen in other parts of the country. It is upwards of nine feet above the ground, and about six feet in circumference. This stone is near the spot where the house of Hall-hill stood, but probably of much greater antiquity.

Tradition marks two spots near the hamlet of Trafalgar, and at about equal distances to the east and the west of the inn known by that name, as the sites of two ancient military forts, which were probably intended to secure the pass leading from Newburgh to the central part of Fife. This must have been a station of great importance in times of war, as, with the exception of one other pass, it formed the only access to the interior of the county from the north. The loch that lies upon the road between this place and Newburgh has in consequence received the name of Lindores, (*Linne-doris*) the water of the pass.

The eastern fort was called *Agabatha*, or marsh-field castle. This name was appropriate to its situation, as, within the last forty years, the fields adjoining the little eminence called a castle, were a complete marsh, although now under cultivation. The eminence itself was surrounded by a ditch or moat, forming in a remote age the most effective kind of fortification. Several relics of antiquity have been found at this place. Among others a quern or hand-

mill of mica slate, a mineral not belonging to Fife. A number of coins also, belonging to the reign of Edward I. of England, were here turned up by the plough. They are the coinage of different towns, as London, Canterbury, and York, but are evidently all of the same reign.

The western fort is called the Maiden Castle. A clump of trees planted by the late proprietor, Mr Thomson, points out its situation. The tradition as to the origin of this name is, that during a siege laid to this station, the governor died, and that his daughter, concealing the event, gave the necessary orders in his name, and that the castle thus defended held out till the enemy was obliged to retire. There is scarcely any thing in the external appearance of the grounds in either of these places that would arrest the attention of an observer unacquainted with these traditions. But in the fields adjoining, and particularly in the intervening space between these two stations, there are many traces, in the human bones, stone coffins and urns, which from time to time have been dug up,—that point out this place to have been, at a remote period, the scene of battles and of sepulture.

Among the most entire of these remains may be mentioned two urns, said to be perfect specimens of the ancient Celtic urn, for depositing the ashes of the dead. One of these, still to be seen at Kinloch, is made of bluish clay. Its height is about eighteen inches, and its diameter at the widest part about fifteen inches, like a bee's cap, a little more conical. It was found at the depth of a foot below the surface, in an inverted position, on a flat slab of stone, and enclosing several human bones which have been partially burnt. The other urn, which has been carried away in fragments by different visitors, was in every respect similar, only its dimensions, somewhat smaller than that described.\*

\* From its proximity to Falkland, the frequent residence of James VI. this parish is recorded to have been the scene of some of the eccentric feats and munificent acts of that facetious prince. The following is one of the most authentic. It is related that in the disguise, which he often assumed, of a poor travelling man, he knocked one evening at the door of the miller's house of Ballomill. After some little difficulty he obtained quarters for the night. He joined the circle round the miller's fire-side, and partook of their social glee, as well as of their homely cheer. The miller's frank and honest bearing gained upon the good opinion of the King, his hospitality and kindness increasing as he became more intimate with the stranger. In the morning, accompanying his unknown guest in familiar converse to the extremity of the farm, they were met, according to previous appointment, by the royal guards. The miller then saw with astonishment that he had had the honour of entertaining the King. At parting, to reward his hospitality, and at the same time to try his knowledge of fractions, his Majesty asked the miller, whether he would have the fourth part, or the eighth part, or the sixteenth part of the lands on which they stood. The miller pondered a little a question so important, and said to himself, to ask the sax-



## III.—POPULATION.

It appears from the account of this parish, published in the former Statistical Account, that in the year 1791, the population was 949 souls. By the last census of 1831, the population amounted to 1162, viz. 559 males, and 603 females. The increase is to be referred to the steadily advancing prosperity and improvement of the country. Besides the village of Collessie, which contains 180 inhabitants, there are several other villages and hamlets in the parish. Three of these are of recent erection, viz. Gifferton, Edenston, and Monkston. The houses of which they are formed are well arranged, neat, and comfortable. That a greater increase of the population has not taken place in consequence of the recent erection of these villages, is accounted for by the almost entire removal of the village of Kinloch, which, not many years ago, was the largest in the parish, containing 191 inhabitants. A considerable number of the families formerly residing there now occupy Monkston. This village consists of twenty-four houses forming one line, with an interval of twelve feet between every four houses, so that the whole is divided into six squares. The place originally called Monks-moss takes its name from the district where it is situated, having been granted to the monks of St Mary's at Lindores Abbey to supply them with heather and moss for fuel.

Number of families in the parish,	-	-	-	247
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	73
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	-	-	-	104

Upwards of 100 of the families live in the several villages, the rest in the country part of the parish. The yearly average, as appears from the sessional books, which have recently been kept with considerable accuracy, is, for the last seven years, of births, 18; of deaths, 14; of marriages, 9.

*Resident Land-owners.*—This parish has the advantage of the permanent residence of most of its landed proprietors. To begin at the western extremity:—John Cheape, Esq. of Rossie; Miss Arnot of Lochie Head; Charles Kinnear, Esq. of Kinloch; William Walker, Esq. of Pitlair; D. Maitland Makgill, Esq. of Rankelour; of whom the two last mentioned gentlemen are also elders in the parish,—all reside upon their estates.

teenth part wud be o'er greedy, to ask the fourth part would be cheatin mysell, I'll e'en strike between the twa and ask the aught. In consequence of this decision the eighth part of the lands of Ballomill was measured off to him, which long remained in the miller's family. The description in the title deed still runs "All and whole of the one-eighth part of the lands of Ballomill." The royal charter by which it was conveyed is still preserved in the parish.

So many of the heritors permanently resident, not only form a pleasant neighbourhood, but their residence exerts a very favourable influence upon the condition and moral character of the whole population. Anxious as the gentlemen of the parish are to give employment to the labouring-classes, and to relieve the necessities of the poor, their liberality, as will appear in a subsequent part of this account, is of great benefit to the parish. And it may be said of the people at large, that they enjoy, in a very considerable degree, the comforts and advantages of society.

During the last three years there have been 2 illegitimate births.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactories or public works in this parish. Yet more than a hundred families are supported by hand-loom weaving, the materials being supplied by agents, and the manufactured goods transmitted by them to Glasgow, Dundee, and Aberdeen. It requires great industry to enable a weaver to make 9s. a-week. Females are also employed in this occupation, whose earnings are scarcely so good.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres, imperial measure, cultivated or occasionally in tillage, is about 5000. There may be between 200 and 300 imperial acres of marshy and barren land lying continually waste, almost the whole of which might be improved for pasture, or planted to advantage. The only common in the parish, viz. Edensmuir and Monks-moss, was divided by Adam Rolland, Esq. advocate, as arbiter, about forty years ago.

*Plantations.*—The greater part of that common, extending in all to 967 imperial acres, has been planted, chiefly in fir. Weddersbie hill, also, extending to upwards of 200 imperial acres, was planted upwards of twenty years ago by William Johnston, Esq. of Lathrisk, the proprietor. The plantations in the neighbourhood of the mansions in the parish extend to 60 or 70 acres,—so that the total woodland may be about 1237 imperial acres.

In Edensmuir and Monks-moss the wood planted is chiefly fir, too generally of a soft yellow pine, by mistake, instead of the Scotch fir. This great forest did not, in due time, receive judicious periodical thinnings, which, from the lightness of the soil, it particularly required. It is, consequently in many places, not in a thriving state, and the trees will not reach above two-thirds of the size to which they might otherwise have attained.

Upwards of twenty years ago, a large fir plantation on the borders of the common, belonging to the Earl of Leven and Melville,



suddenly died, when come to about two-thirds of its growth. The decay was so rapid that little value was secured. Numbers of insects were found on the trees. This extraordinary effect is probably to be referred to the want of proper thinning, the poor soil being unable to sustain so large a crop. The space once occupied by this plantation still retains the name of the "Dead Wood." In the thriving plantation of Weddersbie hill, there is, along with the fir in the better parts of the soil, a judicious admixture of larch and the ordinary forest trees. In planting Edensmuir, the genuine Scotch fir ought to be introduced; and everywhere except on the poorest parts of the soil, an admixture ought to be supplied of larch and of the hardy species of forest trees.

*Rent.*—The rent of arable land in the parish varies according to its quality, from 10s. to L. 2, 10s. per Scotch acre.

*Stock.*—The Fifeshire breed of black cattle is reared. It is much crossed with various breeds, chiefly, however, with the short-horned or Teeswater, and with the Angus polled breed. More attention should be given to preserving and propagating the pure breed of the county. It combines in a great degree the hardiness of the Highland with the size of the southern breeds.

*Husbandry.*—The mode of farming pursued in the parish is similar to that of the district at large. The common duration of leases is nineteen years. And the rents are now generally fixed, partly in money and partly in grain, according to the fiars of the county. The farm-buildings are generally good and commodious, and the fields for the most part enclosed with stone dikes or thorn hedges.

*Improvements.*—Besides that this parish, in common with the country at large, advances progressively in agricultural improvement, several extensive undertakings have been executed which have proved very beneficial. One of these was the embankment of the Eden by the late Mr Johnstone of Lathrisk, the father of the present proprietor. That river flowing through a level country, very often overflowed its banks, and considerably injured the grounds on either side by washing away the soil. To prevent this, Mr Johnstone caused a spacious canal to be made for the water, 12 feet wide at the bottom and 30 feet at the top, secured on the sides by embankments and hedges, which include a space 70 feet in breadth, so that in time of a flood there is sufficient space for containing the water, and preventing its overflowing and damaging the adjacent grounds.

Extensive improvements have also been effected upon the flat lands of Rankeilour-Makgill, and Pitlair. A quantity of ground has here been reclaimed from marsh, by the spirited improvements of the late Charles Maitland, Esq. of Rankeilour. In accomplishing this, he deepened the water of Keilour, to give greater descent to his drainage. So beneficial has been the effect of his operations in this neighbourhood, that it is difficult now to believe the tradition, that in 1745, when the horses at Rankeilour were seized for the use of the Pretender's army, those of Pitlair remained secure, the Highlanders being unwilling to approach it by the single road which led to it through the surrounding morass. In connection with these improvements, Mr Maitland worked marl on Pitlair, to the extent of 83,010 bolls fine, and 28,721 black do., which he used largely for his own estate, and sold besides to the surrounding landlords, to the value of L. 1461, 11s. 0½d.

*Draining of Rossie Loch, &c.*—But the most remarkable of all the improvements effected in the parish was the draining of Rossie Loch. The first attempt to accomplish this object was made in 1740. Notwithstanding the means then used, however, the ground was still left a kind of morass in summer, and almost covered with water in winter. It continued in this unsatisfactory state till 1805–1806, when Captain Cheape, the present proprietor, deepened and extended the drains, leading off the water to the Eden, at an expense of L. 3000. The land was thus brought into a comparatively dry state. About 250 acres of it have been made capable of producing good crops of grain, although about 40 acres in the middle of the former loch still remain marshy, producing only natural hay. In carrying forward his operations, Captain Cheape found it very advantageous occasionally to pasture the reclaimed fields with sheep. They consolidated the land, and prepared it for the plough, without breaking the surface, as heavier cattle must have done. The extensive drainage which has been effected by the active and intelligent proprietor of Rossie has at once improved and beautified his estate, and greatly promoted the healthfulness of the neighbourhood.

The system of draining has not only been successfully employed upon the lands of Rossie, but upon the estate of Kinloch and other adjacent districts. It might be suggested, however, that, although little remains to be done in reclaiming, much might still



be effected in improving the more retentive soils, by means of the system of furrow or frequent drainage.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Grain, 9000 quarters,	L. 13,500
Potatoes, turnips, &c. 6000 tons,	5000
Hay, 1550 tons,	3875
Dressed flax, 4 or 5 tons,	150
Land in pasture, 9000 or 10,000 acres of various qualities and some wood	
pasture, at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox grazed, and 7s. per ewe or	
full-grown sheep pastured,	1800
Gardens,	120
Thinnings of plantations,	300
	<hr/>
	L. 24,745

*Agricultural Society.*—A society, formed with the view of giving encouragement to the raising of live-stock and other agricultural produce, holds its meetings in this parish. It is one of the oldest associations for this purpose in the county. Its annual meeting, known by the name of the Trafalgar show, is held on the 21st of October, the anniversary of the great victory of Trafalgar. The system of sweepstakes has lately been substituted for the premiums formerly given by the society; and the competition excited, in improving the breed of stock, and introducing improved seeds, is considerable. The Chevalier barley and the Italian rye-grass were lately brought into general notice in this district, by means of this society. It is supported by the neighbouring landed proprietors, and a considerable body of the tenantry.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—As the parish is situated upon the road between Cupar and Auchtermuchty, our means of communication are easy and direct. There is a runner between these towns every day, who leaves letters and parcels at Trafalgar inn, and at the lodges of the mansions upon the road. No coach now passes through the parish; the nearest point at which a public conveyance can be got is three miles distant from Collessie. We are six miles from the New Inn, where coaches to and from Edinburgh, Dundee, and Aberdeen, pass three times a-day. The projected railway, for connecting the Forth and Tay, will run through the centre of the parish. There are carriers almost every day to various parts of the country, and one regularly twice a week between Cupar and Auchtermuchty.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The great majority of the people are members of the Established Church. There is no dissenting meeting-

house of any description in the parish; but there are about 80 families of dissenters, who go to their several places of worship in adjoining parishes. There are 135 male heads of families upon the parochial roll, who have the right of exercising the veto, in conformity with the recent enactment of the General Assembly, among whom are included all the heritors, and every farmer in the parish. There are 330 communicants in the Established Church, and 8 elders.

The manse is a very comfortable and commodious house, much improved and enlarged,—almost, indeed, renewed within the last fourteen years. If, for the personal comfort of the minister and his family, it is, like many of the manses in Fife, too much in the village, he has the advantage at least of being near the scene of his ministerial labours. The glebe is of not more than the legal size, but the land is of good quality. The stipend is 15 chalders of grain, half meal, and half barley, a small sum for vicarage and grass money, with the usual allowance for communion elements. The last augmentation was granted in 1822. There is a considerable amount of unexhausted teind.

The church is an exceedingly uncomfortable and ill-adapted structure. It is one of the few remaining long and narrow buildings, that seem to have been common in the country in Roman Catholic times. It is 75 feet long, by 25 broad. The pulpit is in the middle, and there are galleries to the right and left of it. Some of the old seats that remain bear the date of the fifteenth century. From its original situation, or by the accumulation of graves in the church-yard in which it stands, it is sunk some feet below the level of the ground, and is in the winter season cold and damp in the extreme. It cannot, at the utmost, be seated for more than 400 hearers; and, besides being too small for the population of the parish, it is irremediably defective in form, and can by no repair be rendered commodious or comfortable. There is no remedy but in a new one, which it is hoped will soon be erected.

*Poor.*—The poor of the parish are amply supported by the voluntary collections made at the church doors. Our heritors for the most part being resident, and such of them as are not so occasionally coming to church, or sending their contributions,—although there is no fund or vested property for charitable purposes,—the kirk-session has been able, for the last three years, during the incumbency of the present minister, to meet, from the source alluded to, the exigencies of the poor. There is a prevailing opinion of the



advantages to all parties attending this mode of parochial administration. The number of stated pensioners on the poor's roll is eleven,—3 men and 8 women. The highest allowance is 10s. a month,—the lowest to any pensioner in the parish, 4s.

The average sum collected yearly for the last three years is L. 58. This includes sums collected upon sacramental occasions twice a year, and which, for the most part, are appropriated to the temporary relief of such of the poor as are not regular pensioners. It includes also the amount of annual collections made upon the first Sabbath of every year, being at an average L. 7 for coals to the poor. The kirk-session have thus been able to distribute upwards of thirty cart loads of coals annually, the heritors and farmers, in addition to their collections, giving the carriage free.

*Societies for Religious purposes.*—Besides these collections for the temporal necessities of the poor, there is collected at the church door, for religious purposes, from L. 12 to L. 15 annually. The money thus raised for promoting Christian objects constitutes the funds of a parochial society, which are placed at the disposal of a committee, consisting of the kirk-session, *ex officio*, and three other members of the congregation, annually elected. And these funds have been principally appropriated to the support of institutions connected with the Established Church.

*Education.*—The facilities for education in the parish are considerable. There is the parochial school, where the usual branches are taught. It is attended, at an average, by 65 scholars. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary; a comfortable and well-situated house and garden. His fees may amount to L. 23 per annum: he has also about L. 5 a-year from other sources. There is also a female school, a neat and well adapted building in the cottage style, near Collessie village, erected at the expense of the Melville family, and partly endowed. It is attended by 50 girls; and a few boys under six years of age. They are not only well instructed in the elementary branches of general education, but the girls are taught knitting and needlework in its several branches, and, what is scarcely less important, are trained to habits of order and exactness. Our only other school is a small one at Monkston, attended by about 25 scholars, the teacher of which is wholly dependent on the fees of his pupils, and the voluntary kindness of his employers. Some endowment for a school in this part of the parish would be highly desirable. The number of children, in all, receiving a public education, is 140, being about

1 to  $8\frac{1}{2}$  of the whole population. A Sabbath school, well attended by the children, and also by many of their parents, is taught at Collessie; one at Rankeilour, and another at Monkston. We have a Parochial Juvenile and Adult Library, containing 370 well selected volumes.

March 1836.

## PARISH OF MONIMAIL.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES BRODIE, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish is spelt in several different ways; but appears to have been the same in pronunciation from time immemorial. The first part of the word seems to be derived from the Celtic word *Mon* or *Monath*, a hill; while the latter part may be either *mile*, a mile; or *meal*, honey; or *meille*, a mill.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish forms an irregular oval, of which the extreme length is 6 miles, and the extreme breadth 5; and contains about 16 square miles. It is entirely inland; and is bounded on the north and east by the parishes of Abdie, Dunbog, Moonzie, and Cupar; and on the south and west by Cults and Collessie. The northern part of the parish consists of a range of whinstone hills, of which the Mount Hill is the highest. The southern part is more level, being a portion of the hollow which occupies the centre of Fifeshire.

*Meteorology, &c.*—The general temperature of the atmosphere, as ascertained by a register kept at Melville House, in which the greatest heat of each day, and greatest cold of each night, are regularly noted, is as under:

	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Ap.	May.	June.	July.	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
1833,	37.1	38.5	40.8	45.3	54.8	52.8	59	56.1	53.4	49.3	38.5	38.1
1834,	31.3	38	38.5	43	55.1	56.4	59.6					
1835,	35.2	38.8	40.5	46.1	49.3	55.2	57.2	58.3	50.6	43.1	39.1	35.5

Generally speaking the climate is mild. The hills to the north and east break the force of the wind from these quarters, while the abundance of plantations add to the warmth, as well as to the beauty of the district. The lower part of the parish was formerly sub-



ject to damps and hoar frosts ; but, by means of thorough draining, these evils have been almost entirely removed. In consequence of its dry and sheltered situation, it is considered by medical men as peculiarly healthy. Agues are unknown, and fevers occur but seldom, and are generally milder in their character than in other places.

*Hydrography.*—There are several rivulets in the parish, all of which fall into the river Eden. There is only one of them of such a size as to turn a mill-wheel without the aid of a dam. In some places, owing to the porous nature of the subsoil, the supply of water is deficient ; but in general the springs are abundant, and the water good, without any trace of mineral impregnation.

*Geology.*—The northern half of the parish consists of a mass of whinstone, full of rents, speedily yielding to the action of the atmosphere, and, consequently, unfit for building. There are, however, isolated portions of a harder and more durable nature. In some places, agates are found imbedded in the rock. Besides these portions, which seem to have been formed at the same time as the softer rock by which they are surrounded, there are two contiguous veins, or seams, of a more recent formation, running nearly east and west for many miles. The one to the north is a very tough, heavy, and coarse-grained stone, and varies in thickness from 15 to 40 feet. The other is harder and closer in the grain, and is from 10 to 20 feet thick. Between these veins there sometimes occur cavities, in which very beautiful crystals of carbonate of lime and sulphate of barytes have been found.

The southern half of the parish contains some sandstone, belonging to the coal formation, which is spread over a large portion of the county.

The more hilly parts present very evident proofs of the action of a strong current, flowing from the west or south-west. On that side of the different rising grounds, the soil rests immediately on the whinstone, and consists of decomposed rock and vegetable mould. Wherever it is of sufficient thickness, it produces abundantly all the different species of cultivated plants. On the east and north, the whinstone is covered by a deposit of clayey till several feet in thickness. The soil in such places is more tenacious, and generally less productive.

In the more level district, the coal strata are covered with a thick bed of gravel and sand, apparently deposited by an extensive lake, which had at some former period extended over the “ Laigh of

Fife." This gravel is composed of fragments of many different rocks; and the soil above it is light and thin.

*Botany.*—The greater part of the land having been under cultivation from time immemorial, and the rest affording good pasture for cattle and sheep, there is no secluded corner to afford a habitat for any of the rarer indigenous plants. The yellow acornite grows in great abundance in the shrubberies at Melville, and the *Geranium lucidum* on the old walls round Monimail. The various kinds of grasses and vetches are especially abundant. In the soils formed from the decomposition of the whinstone, we find *Poa arvensis*, *P. trivialis*, *Festuca duriuscula*, *Cynosurus cristatus*, *Phleum pratense*, and *Holcus avenaceus* most commonly occurring; on the soils lying above sand or gravel, the *Festuca ovina*, and *Agrostis communis* are most frequently found; while the *Holcus lanatus* and *Dactylis glomerata* are everywhere abundant. All the different kinds of trees commonly planted seem to thrive; some of the oaks in particular have been noted for an unusually rapid growth.

*Zoology.*—Owing to the sheltered situation of the parish, and the number of plantations, there is a superabundance of the feathered tribes. Occasionally, some of the rarer species have been met with. Among others may be mentioned, the Bohemian and silken chatterers, the grossbeak, the siskin, the kingfisher, and the passenger pigeon,—the last being the only specimen hitherto discovered in Britain. A few foxes and roe-deer are found in the plantations, but none of the rarer quadrupeds have been observed. The jealousy of the gamekeeper has destroyed almost all the birds and beasts of prey (not excepting the cat); wood-pigeons, rabbits, rats, and other vermin, are in consequence numerous and very destructive. The rivulets supply a few trouts and eels. The only shell-fish is the fresh water muscle.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—Of eminent men connected with the parish we may mention, Sir David Lindsay of the Mount, whose family for many years retained that property. Several individuals belonging to the noble family of Melville have also received an honourable place in the history of their country. Melville of Raith, (ancestor of the present Earls of Leven and Melville,) was one of the first who embraced the Reformed religion. His sons, James and Andrew Melville, were distinguished for their diplomatic talent in the times of James and Mary. George, the first Earl of Melville, had the honour, as His Majesty's Commissioner to the General Assembly,



of announcing that church patronage had been abolished. He was also one of the most active instruments of bringing about the Revolution of 1688. In later times, this parish was the residence of Sir John Hope, afterwards Lord Niddry and Earl of Hopetoun, who acted so distinguished a part in the peninsular war.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, the Earl of Leven and Melville; General the Hon. Sir Alexander Hope of Rankelour, G. C. B.; Francis Balfour, Esq. of Fernie, (nearest heir-male to the attained title of Burleigh;) George Paterson, Esq. of Cunoquhie; and Thomas Webster, Esq. of Bargarvie.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parish registers commence in the year 1626. They are in general pretty well kept; but several portions have been lost. Some of the entries show that the former state of the country was very different from the present. Thus, from the treasurer's accounts, we learn, that, besides maintaining the poor, and assisting in educating young men for the ministry, the collections made at church were applied to the repairing of roads, bridges, and harbours.

*Antiquities.*—Of antiquities the number is but small. An old tower yet stands, which is said to have been built by Cardinal Bethune or Beaton, who resided here in 1562. It seems to have formed an addition to a building which had previously been one of the country residences of the Archbishops of St Andrews. There are several distinct heads of the Cardinal in his cap, in relievo upon the walls. The arms of the family of Bethune are also entire. The house of Fernie is believed to have been one of Macduff's castles; it is very old, and has evidently been a place of strength. In taking down the old church, a stone coffin was found in the wall, formed of a single stone, with a cavity cut of the shape of the body. Another stone formed the cover. Some remnants of what seemed to have been gold lace were found among the mouldering bones and dust; but who was the person thus immured, could not be ascertained. About a mile from the site of the old church, there is a strong spring of very pure water, which is known by the name of Cardan's well; so called from a celebrated physician, who is said with this water to have cured Hamilton Archbishop of St Andrews, of dropsy. A belief long prevailed, that this spring was possessed of peculiar medicinal properties, and within the last fifty years many persons used to frequent it; but now its very name and situation are almost forgotten. Its reputation perhaps arose from a cunning device of the physician, who praised its virtues, that he might induce a lazy eccle-

siastic to take the exercise necessary for his health, in walking to the well.\*

*Buildings.*—The parish is rich in gentlemen's seats; Melville, Rankeilour, Cunoquhie, and Balgarvie, are elegant modern mansions. Fernie Castle, as before observed, is more ancient, and retains marks of having been a place of strength. A beautiful pillar, upwards of 100 feet in height, has been erected on the top of the Mount-hill, in memory of the late Lord Hopetoun. The materials generally used in building are freestone for the hewn work, and whinstone for the rubble. They form together a very solid and durable wall. A few of the cottages are covered with thatch; but most of them are roofed with tiles, and the better class of buildings with slates.

### III.—POPULATION.

Judging from the entries in the session registers, the population of the parish does not appear to have made any great increase for the last two hundred years. Dr Webster states it at 884, but this seems to be too low. The increase has arisen from the number of additional hands employed in weaving. The amount of the agricultural population is less than in former times. The numbers at each census are as follows:

In 1791,	.	1101	
1811,	.	1160	
1821,	.	1227	
1831,	.	1230,	of whom 599 were males; and 631 females.
Number of persons residing in villages,	-	-	- 560
the country,	-	-	- 670
children under 12 years of age,	-	-	- 426
individuals of 70 and upwards,	-	-	- 50
The yearly average of births is	-	-	- 284
of illegitimate births is	-	-	- 1
of marriages,	-	-	- 84
of deaths,	-	-	- 19
Of these last there are at an average, of children either still-born or under a week old,	-	-	- 2
Of persons of 70 and upwards,	-	-	- 8

In the roll of heritors, there are one Earl and one Knight G. C. B. There are ten proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, four are non-resident, and six have their mansion-houses in the parish.

The number of families is 277, (including in this number single and unmarried persons, having houses of their own.)

\* A stone coffin containing two skeletons was lately found at Uthrogal, in trenching a piece of ground, which is said by tradition to have been a Roman Catholic burying-place. Uthrogal was formerly a leper hospital, and with the lands of Hospital mill in the adjoining parish of Cults, was given by Mary of Gueldres, the widow of James II. to the Trinity Hospital at Edinburgh. On the suppression of religious houses it became the property of the town of Edinburgh, and now belongs to the Earl of Leven.



The number of families chiefly employed in agriculture, . . . . . 147  
 in trade, manufactures, or handicraft, 108

There are in the parish 1 insane person, 1 fatuous, 2 blind, and 1 deaf and dumb.

During the last three years there have been 3 illegitimate births in the parish.

*Language.*—The language spoken is the dialect peculiar to Fifeshire, which contains a good many words not to be found in Johnson, though their number is gradually diminishing. The pronunciation is slow and rather drawling. The double *oo*, as in *fool*, is sounded as the French *u* in *un*. The *l* after *p* and *b* is often changed into a short *i* or *y*, plough and blue being pronounced *piu* and *biu*, a corruption similar to the change of the Latin *planus* into the Italian *piano*. The *a* in *haste*, *hate*, &c. has a sound intermediate between the *ay* in *may*, and the *e* in *me*, which is in fact a distinct vowel, peculiar to the “kingdom of Fife.” The short *i*, as in *him*, is pronounced nearly as the *u* in *tub*.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Provisions and Wages.*—The price of provisions and rate of wages at different periods may be stated as under :

<i>In</i>	1750.	1790.	1810.	1834.
<i>Provisions, &amp;c.</i>				
Beef and mutton per lb.	L. 0 0 2	L. 0 0 4	L. 0 0 8	L. 0 0 5½
Veal per do. - -	0 0 4	0 0 7	0 0 9	0 0 6
Hens, - - -	0 0 4	0 1 0	0 1 6	0 1 6
New butter, - -	0 0 4	0 0 8	0 0 11	0 0 9
Eggs per dozen, - -	0 0 2	0 0 4	0 1 0	0 0 8
Salmon per lb. - -	0 0 1½	0 0 5½	0 0 8	0 0 8
Wheat per boll, - -	0 12 7	1 0 2	1 10 6	1 4 10
Barley per do. - -	0 8 2	0 13 0	1 4 7	1 0 4
Oats per do. - -	0 8 0	0 10 11	1 1 7	0 15 3
Meal per do. - -	0 9 9	0 14 5	1 5 0	0 15 10
<i>Wages.</i>				
Labourer per day, -	0 0 5	0 0 10½	0 1 10	0 1 4
Mason, &c. per day, -	0 0 10	0 1 3	0 2 9	0 2 3
Females per day, -			0 0 10	0 0 7
Ploughmen per year, -	2 5 0	6 10 0	16 0 0	10 0 0
Maid-servants per year,	1 15 0	3 10 0	5 10 0	5 10 0
Livery-servants per year,	4 0 0	11 0 0	26 0 0	26 0 0

The pound employed in this table is the Dutch pound. The price of grain is taken from an average of the fiars prices for periods of five years, ending in the years mentioned. The yearly servants receive in addition to their wages, food and lodging, or an allowance of meal, &c. in lieu. The payment of the day-labourers is stated at the average rate of the whole year.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres under cultivation may be reckoned in round numbers at 3000. The pasture (including the parks round the different gentlemen’s seats,) amounts to about 2000

more; and the different plantations contain 500 acres in all. There is no undivided common, and little if any ground unimproved, which would repay the expense of cultivation. The trees are skilfully managed. The kinds most commonly planted are, Scotch fir, larch, beech, oak, ash, elm, and plane.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of arable land per acre varies from L. 1 to L. 3; the average may be somewhat above L. 2. The charge for grazing depends on the size of the animal and quality of the pasture. The grazing for an ox varies from L. 2 to L. 3, 10s. the average about L. 3; for a sheep, from 7s. to 12s. the average 10s.

*Live-Stock.*—The most common breeds of cattle are the Fife-shire, Ayrshire, and Teeswater; with the different crosses produced between them. The Fife-shire is most esteemed for breeding, and the Ayrshire for milk. Few sheep are reared in the parish, but considerable numbers of the Cheviot and black-faced breeds are bought in autumn, and fed on turnips through the winter.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry pursued varies according to the nature of the different soils. On the richer fields, a rotation of four years is followed, and the principal change lately introduced is the taking of a crop of potatoes instead of fallowing previous to sowing wheat. The potatoes are either employed in feeding cattle, or are shipped for the London market. This plan, however, seems likely to prove ultimately injurious to the soil. On the poorer ground a different rotation is preferred, the fields being left two or three years in grass. In managing them, the principal improvement is the applying of bone manure to raise a crop of turnips, which are afterwards eaten by sheep upon the ground. This has enabled the farmer to cultivate a good deal of thin land, which must otherwise have remained untilled.

The farms are generally well laid out, and thoroughly drained. They are let upon leases of nineteen years; and the rents are in a great measure paid according to the fiars' prices of the county. They vary in size from 150 to 400 or 500 acres. The farm-steadings are substantial and commodious, and the system of husbandry good.

The principal improvement since the former Statistical Account was published, is the draining of a morass of 30 or 40 acres; but owing to the subsiding of the mossy soil, and consequent loss of level, the improvement has not been so complete as might have been anticipated.



*Amount of Raw Produce.*—This, with the expense of raising, may be stated as follows :

1400 arable acres in corn, value of corn and straw at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	-	L. 9800		
Expenses ploughing, seed, cutting, &c. at L. 2, 10s. per acre,	-	-	-		L.3500	= L. 6300
700 acres green crop at L. 7 per acre,				4900		
Expenses ploughing, manuring, sowing, hoeing, &c. at L. 5 per acre,	-	-	-		3500	= 1400
900 arable acres in hay or pasture, at L. 3 per acre,				2700		
Expenses fencing and cutting, at 10s. per acre,					450	= 2250
2000 acres in permanent pasture at L. 1, 5s.	-	-	-	3500		
Expences fencing, herding, draining, &c. at 5s. per acre,					500	= 3000
500 acres in wood, cuttings and thinnings,				200		
Expenses felling and pruning,	-	-	-		100	= 100
				<u>L. 21,100</u>	<u>L. 8050</u>	<u>L. 13,050</u>

Of the L. 13,050, stated above as the actual profit derived from the soil, about one-third forms the remuneration which the farmer receives for his trouble and outlay of money in stocking, draining, liming, &c.; the other two-thirds go to the landlord for rent. Of late, the value of the different articles enumerated has fallen short of the amount above stated. The valued rent of the parish is nearly L. 8000.

*Manufactures.*—The only manufacture worthy of notice is the weaving of linens. The value of the labour employed in it may be between L. 2000 and L. 3000 per annum. The hours of labour are very long, and allow little time for reading or relaxation. Our manufactures, therefore, can hardly be said to afford a fair remuneration to those employed, or to be favourable to health and morals.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Cupar, which is five miles and a-half from the church of Monimail. There are three villages in the parish. Letham contains 440 inhabitants; Monimail, 80; and Easter Fernie, 60. The nearest post-office is at Cupar. Three different lines of turnpike pass through the parish, containing in all ten miles of road, and as much more is kept in repair by the statute labour assessment. There are no canals, railways, or public conveyances.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the church and manse is far from convenient. They are scarcely a mile from the one end of the parish, and are fully five miles from the other. The church was built in 1796. It is rather a handsome building, with a tower at the east end, and is in thorough repair. It affords accommodation for nearly 600 persons. The seats are allotted to the inhabitants according to the properties on which they reside. The manse was built in 1790, and is still in excellent condition. The

glebe contains five acres, and is worth L. 12 per annum. The stipend is 16 chalders, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 238, and the number of individuals belonging to them is 1057. The families of Seceders, &c. are 31, and the number of persons 162. There are 3 families containing 11 individuals of Episcopalian principles. Divine service is generally well attended, —allowance being made for bad roads and distance. The average number of communicants is nearly 500. There was until lately a Bible and Missionary Society, collecting from L. 10 to L. 15 per annum. The plan of congregational collections is now adopted; and hitherto the amount raised has not fallen off. Cases requiring the administration of discipline occur but seldom. Of the more flagrant offences within the last seven years there has been one murder, the murderer being a stranger; and five persons have been convicted of adultery, three of whom were dissenters.

*Education.*—There are five schools in the parish. The parochial teacher has the full salary and the accommodation prescribed by law. With school fees and some other small emoluments, his income may be about L. 65 or L. 70 per annum. There are two other schools taught by male teachers, partly supported by private subscription and partly by fees, the emoluments being about L. 18 per annum. Two female teachers are similarly maintained, having about L. 15 each. The branches taught are reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, grammar, geography, Latin, and in the female schools knitting and sewing. The school fees are 2s. or 3s. per quarter. The people are fully aware of the benefits of education. Very few, indeed, are ignorant of reading, though a good many have not been taught to write. No additional schools are required. The number of scholars during the winter season averages 150; but the classes are not so well attended in summer. Children of eleven and twelve years of age are sent to learn trades or to herd cattle, and consequently the amount of education that many of them receive is very small.

*Libraries.*—There are two parish libraries,—one contains a pretty good selection of books of general literature; the other consists exclusively of religious publications.

*Friendly Societies.*—There is a flourishing friendly society in the parish, which has done a great deal of good. Another was broken up a few years ago, having been established on erroneous principles. The nearest Savings bank is at Cupar.



*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving regular aid from the parish funds is 12. The usual sum allowed is 4s. per month. The collections made at the church doors (exclusive of those for religious purposes) amount to L. 55 per annum; donations, &c. average nearly L. 10 more; and a voluntary assessment from the heritors of L. 20, makes the annual income of the poor about L. 85. Of this nearly L. 20 are required for the support of pauper lunatics. Many of the poor show a very commendable spirit of independence; others exhibit a disposition the very reverse. Generally speaking, they look on public aid as degrading.

*Inns.*—There are three inns in the parish.

*Fuel, &c.*—The fuel principally used is coal, brought from the parishes of Markinch and Dysart.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, improvements in the system of husbandry have enabled the farmer to raise nearly three times the quantity of agricultural produce. Rents are more than doubled; the quantity of cloth manufactured is increased fourfold; and the people generally have more comfortable houses, food, and clothing; but their toil is harder, and their leisure less. Knowledge is more generally diffused; but contentment and happiness have not been equally extended. External decorum is as much regarded as formerly; but family worship is not so generally observed; and the religious instruction of children and domestics is not so carefully attended to as in former times. Still, however, in the words of the former Statistical Account, “the general character of the people has always been, that they are industrious, regular, quiet, and respectable. There are mixtures in the purest societies. But this character is still merited by the present race in Monimail.”

*March 1836.*

## PARISH OF ABDIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. LAURENCE MILLER, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish, Abdie or Ebtie, is supposed to be the Gaelic word *abtaob* signifying *waterside*. According to Sibbald, the ancient name of the parish was Lindores, which is still the name of the principal village in it, a place of great antiquity. At what time the parish got the name of Abdie is uncertain. But it has been so called for many centuries; and the church of Abdie was always reckoned one of those belonging to the abbey of Lindores, which is situated about two miles from the village on the south bank of the Tay.

*Boundaries and Extent.*—The parish was formerly of much greater extent than at present; for in the year 1633 the whole of Newburgh parish was disjoined from it. By this disjunction, and by the intersections of the neighbouring parishes, it has become very irregular in its figure, so that it is difficult to ascertain its exact dimensions. Perhaps if the scattered parts of it were united into one whole, it might form an area of about 6 miles in length, by 4 in breadth. It is bounded on the W. and N. W. by Abernethy and Newburgh; on the S. and S. W. by Auchtermuchty and Collessie; on the S. E. the E. N. E. by Monimail, Dunbog, and Flisk; and on the N. and E. by the Tay.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Limestone occurs on the farm of Parkhill; and several attempts have been made to apply it as manure, but these have been abandoned, on account of the distance of coal, and the unfavourable dip of the stratum. This rock belongs to the old red sandstone formation of Werner. There is also a quarry of red freestone, near the same place, which has been wrought at some former period. Dr Fleming, it is said, discovered some fossil remains of plants in this district. There are several quarries of whinstone in the parish, used for building houses and



repairing roads; but the trade of exporting it, mentioned in last account, has been almost entirely given up for some years.

*Climate, Soil.*—The air is salubrious, no diseases here having been ever ascribed to the influence of the atmosphere.

Owing to the unevenness of the ground, the nature of the soil is various. In the lower part of the parish, on the banks of the Tay, there is a very rich alluvial field of considerable extent, of the same quality with the Carse of Gowrie on the opposite side of the river; on the ascent to the higher grounds, the soil becomes a deep black earth, or in some places light and gravelly, but still very productive. At an average, an acre may yield from seven to ten bolls; but the acclivities of the mountains, which are partly covered with heath or furze, still continue to be pastured by sheep, which are of a mixed breed, and considerable pains have been taken to improve them. They are disposed of at various prices in the neighbourhood. There are likewise considerable numbers of various sorts annually fed off, on turnip, many of which are sent to the London market by steam-vessels from Dundee and Leith. Some of the hills are now planted towards the top, which will improve the appearance of the country, but such plantations are complained of as affording shelter to rabbits, which prey upon the crops.

*Botany.*—In the marshy ground near the loch, there grows the *Cicuta virosa* or water hemlock, or as it is provincially called, *deaffin* or *deathin*, peculiarly noxious to cows. Here too the *Menyanthes trifoliata* grows in great abundance, and is used as a medicine, being a powerful bitter. The *Nymphæa lutea major* or great water-lily, may also be mentioned as a plant that grows in all the lochs in this parish.

*Zoology.*—During the violent tornado of 1825, there appeared among the poultry here a very uncommon bird. It was of the size and colour of the wood-pigeon, and exactly of the figure of the lapwing. Its bill, which was an inch and a-half in length, was one quarter at the bottom, of the colour of red sealing wax, the rest to the point was a bright yellow. It had also a faint circle of red around its eyes. It ran and flew with amazing rapidity. No attempt was made to tame it, but after being kept in the house for twenty-four hours, it was set at liberty. No satisfactory account has hitherto been got of this bird. The description which M'Loc gives of the greenshank approaches nearest it. The osprey or sea-eagle is sometimes seen on the banks of the lake; and an

islet near the west side of it, called the Maw Inch, was formerly the haunt of sea-mews or gulls, but they have now deserted it. Large flocks of crows and pigeons are very destructive to turnips, if left in the fields, in spring.

*Hills, Lakes, &c.*—Those natural objects of this sort that chiefly deserve attention are, the Clatchard Crag, Norman's Law, and the Loch of Lindores. The first is a majestic cliff a little to the south-east of Newburgh, about 250 feet above the road which passes near its base.

Upon its summit, there are the remains of a fortification similar to some of the outworks of the Roman camp at Ardoch. Norman's Law (the hill of the northern men) is in height 850 feet above the sea level. It commands a most delightful prospect, especially to the north, where the Carse of Gowrie and the Frith of Tay appear in full view in all their richness and variety. There are three concentric circles of rough stone near the top, supposed to have been a fortification of the Danes to cover their inroads into the country, or perhaps erected by the natives to repel these invaders. But by far the most interesting object here is the Loch of Lindores, covering an area of 70 acres of ground, and in some places 20 feet deep. This sheet of water is not only highly ornamental, but also very beneficial to the proprietors. And it so happens that, by a servitude upon it for supplying the mills, the water belongs to one proprietor, while the fish and the fowl belong to another. For the two last years, L. 15 or L. 17 have been given for the privilege of fowling and fishing upon it. It is frequented by ducks, teals, snipes, and other water fowl, and it abounds in pike, perch, and eel. A few reeds are sometimes cut for the roofs of houses. But the chief advantage is derived from the stream of water which flows from it, and which is sufficient, except in very dry summer weather, to turn five or six very valuable mills, whose yearly rent is more than could be obtained for the whole extent of the loch though it were converted into arable land. A saw mill has been lately erected, where a great quantity of fir and other wood is cut, (it is said to the value of L. 1500 per annum,) and disposed of in the neighbourhood, or exported at Newburgh to Newcastle and other places. A bone mill has also been set a-going of late, and the corn and barley mills continue to be well employed; but the fulling-mills and lint-mills mentioned in the former Report have been given up. The lake, when covered with ice, affords amusement to curlers. The stream, however, which feeds it, called the Priest's Burn, never freezes, and is never dried up, even



in the hottest weather. In the summer 1826, when all other stream-lets, and almost every neighbouring spring, was dry, this burn was still flowing. It rises from a moss about half a mile distant.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Ancient Land-owners.*—Macduff, Thane of Fife, may be reckoned as one of these. This Earldom, after having been possessed by many of his descendants, came into the hands of Mor-dac, Duke of Albany. He being beheaded at Stirling, his property in Fife, Monteath, and elsewhere, was annexed to the Crown by King James I., and the succeeding kings gave portions of it to their favourites at different times. In particular, the lands of Den-mill, which then comprehended the greatest part of the parish, “were given by James II., in the fourteenth year of his reign, to his beloved and familiar servant James Balfour, son of Sir John Bal-four of Balgarvie.” As a proof of this fact, the mills on this estate are called the King’s Mills in the charter of the present proprie-tor. This family was always in great favour at court. One of them followed James IV. to the battle of Flodden, and was killed there. Sir James Balfour of Denmill and Kinnaird was Lyon King at Arms to Charles I. and II., and an historian of considerable repute. The funeral monuments of the family are to be seen in an aisle of the old church.\*

John Lesly of Parkhill may be mentioned as the leader of the band that cut off Cardinal Beaton. He first entered the Castle of St Andrews, and gave the Cardinal the first mortal stroke with his dagger.

### *Modern Land-owners.*—

	<i>Scotch Acres.</i>	<i>Rental.</i>
David Maitland M <sup>c</sup> Gill, Esq.	1200	L. 1000
Joseph Murray, Esq.	784	605
Lord Dundas,	469	1200
William Scott Moncrieff, Esq.	900	1000
Thomas Watt, Esq.	153	400
Charles Moyes, Esq.†	160	260
Henry Buist, Esq.	800	1000
Admiral Sir F. L. Maitland,	20	60
John Pitcairn, Esq.	200	450
Francis Balfour, Esq.	200	250
	<hr/> 4877	<hr/> L. 6225

\* That of Sir James may be given as a specimen. It is in Latin, and runs thus: “Sir James Balfour of Denmill, Knight, Baronet, Lyon King at Arms, beloved and regretted as an example of true honour and probity, richly furnished with all kinds of learning, whether of a graver or more entertaining cast, a learned and diligent anti-quarian, highly favoured by the muses and graces, died 13th February 1657, aged 53.”

† Charles Moyes is remarkable for his great age, being now above ninety, and still able to attend to his affairs. He is a brother of the famous Dr Henry Moyes, who

*Eminent Men.*—Admiral Maitland, one of the present land-owners in this parish, is well known as the Commander of the *Bellerophon*, which received Bonaparte at the conclusion of the late war with France. By his vigilance and circumspection, he prevented the escape of this great troubler of Europe from Basque roads. He has published a very entertaining narrative of the transactions he had with that celebrated personage and his attendants while they were with him in the ship. On all other occasions, when on active duty, he signalized himself by his intrepidity and skill in naval affairs, and was esteemed one of the best officers in His Majesty's service. While at home, he was attentive to every scheme of public utility; and particularly interested himself in the erection of our new church.

*Parish Registers.*—Baptisms and marriages have been registered with some interruptions from the year 1693. This is now more carefully done than formerly, though still there are many omissions.

*Antiquities.*—The old church, which is now in ruins, may be traced to the beginning of the fifteenth century. There still remain in the porch the basin for the holy water, and, till lately, the steps that led to the altar. All around, are the monuments of former times. We have the Lecturer's Inch, the Teind Knowe, and a park at Lindores called the Glebe. I have in my possession several old coins that were found in the neighbourhood; among these is a shilling of the reign of one of the Jameses, having on the obverse a crowned head, and on the margin *Rex Scotorum*; on the reverse, a cross, with the words *villi Edinburgi*; also a sixpence, having on the obverse a crowned head, with the letters \* *Edw.* on the margin, and on the reverse a cross, with the word *vici* very legible. Urns containing bones and ashes are occasionally dug up. One very lately, of rude workmanship, was met with at the foot of Clat-chard Crag, containing a skull and some bones. It was deposited between three or four large stones placed together in the form of a coffin. There was found nearer the abbey, several years ago, a repository of the same kind containing a great number of very small bones. In the village of Lindores, there are the vestiges of an

lost his eye-sight by the small pox, but, notwithstanding, attained to great proficiency in almost every branch of liberal knowledge. He traversed the country as a lecturer on chemistry and all the branches of natural philosophy. But his favourite subjects were optics and the phenomena of light and colours. These he illustrated with peculiar propriety and success in spite of that bereavement of sight under which he laboured. He amassed a considerable fortune, which was bequeathed chiefly to his brother.

\* Supposed to be Edward I. of England.



old castle, said to have belonged to Duncan Macduff, first Thane or Earl of Fife,—which is rendered extremely probable, by the circumstance, that the pedestal of his cross, the badge of the family, is still to be seen about a mile to the westward. Sir James Balfour, in his *Annals*, speaks of a battle that was fought, between the Scots under Wallace and the English, in June anno 1300, near the Castle of Lindores, in which 3000 of the latter were killed and 500 taken prisoners. This castle of Lindores is also mentioned in the history of Wallace, as the place to which that hero and his companions retired after the battle.

*Mansion-Houses.*—There are four of these lately built; but only two of the heritors reside. The most remarkable of these mansions is the house of Inchrye, which cost L. 12,000. It is in the Gothic style of architecture, with a verandah in front, and adorned with turrets and battlements. From various points this most romantic building is seen to great advantage, but especially from the high road that leads from Trafalgar inn to Newburgh. There it presents itself to the view of the delighted traveller, with its lawns and meadows, and woods fringing the lake. Proceeding westward, another picturesque object appears, the House of Lindores, the residence of Admiral Maitland, situated upon an eminence; and farther on, the new church, with its pillared belfry overlooking the waters. This is, on the whole, a delightful scene, and, were the plantations a little more advanced, might vie in beauty with places of greater celebrity.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, it was	822
1801.	725
By last census,	870
Males, 426; females, 444	
Male heads of families.	160
Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	55
trade, manufactures, or handicrafts,	55
communicants,	300
minister's roll of examinable persons,	500

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture.*—

Imperial acres in the parish cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	6096
Cultivated,	4584
Constantly waste, or in pasture,	1528
That might be profitably added to the cultivated land,	150
Under wood,	300

The farms are about twenty in number. Their yearly rent from L. 1200 to L. 100, part of which is generally paid in grain. The leases are for nineteen years. The farmers are active, industrious, and intelligent, eager to adopt every plan by which the soil or

the crops may be meliorated. In consequence of the improved mode of cultivation, and the draining and bringing in of waste land, the quantity of grain raised is greater by one-third than it was at the time of last Report. The farm-steadings are excellent; most of them lately erected. On all the larger farms there are cot towns, where the servants reside. The men-servants' wages are from L. 10 to L. 12 a-year, with two pecks meal per week; the maid-servants get from L. 5 to L. 7.

The draught horses may be reckoned in number about 200, milch cows, 110. Butter costs 8d per lb.; cheese, 5d. There are 5 smiths in the parish. When paid by the year, they get as wages L. 13 or L. 14; when by the day, 2s. Iron ploughs are now generally used, one of which costs L. 3, 10s.; a brake of 3 harrows costs L. 3, 6s.; and a cart, L. 10. There are 3 carpenters besides apprentices; they get 2s. a-day. There are 3 shoemakers besides servants and apprentices. A pair of shoes costs 9s. There are 2 tailors, paid 1s. 3d. per day with victuals. There are 4 car- ters; they earn 5s. a-day; 4 inn-keepers who have too much business; 3 shepherds; 108 weavers, male and female, earn a little more than 1s. per day. Reapers are generally paid at L. 1, 10s. or L. 2 per season, or 12s. per acre, or 3d. or 4d. per thrave. Bell's reaping-machine is used on one of the farms. Every farmer has a thrashing-mill, and the use of the flail is discontinued. A stock-market has been established at Newburgh, and all sorts of grain are disposed of there every week for ready money. Grain and potatoes are exported to a great extent.

*Produce.*—The average yearly value of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Grain,	L. 14898
Potatoes, turnips,	3151
Hay,	1719
Pasture,	700
	<hr/>
	L. 20,468

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—In nothing does the spirit of improve- ment appear more visible and beneficial than in the construction and repairing of roads. We are not now obliged as heretofore to ascend “the lofty mountain's weary side.” Three turnpikes pass through the parish, each the length of six miles,—besides another upon the statute labour not so good. A coach passes daily from Perth to Kirkaldy through the middle of the parish; and there is ready access to Perth and Dundee by the Tay steam-boats.



*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Earl of Mansfield is patron; and this right is derived to him from Mr Andrew Murray, one of his ancestors, who was minister here, and also patron. He was a person of eminence in the church, and gained the favour of Charles I. by the discretion and authority with which he acted in the General Assembly at Glasgow, 1638.\* He came to the peerage as Lord Balvaird in 1641, but was prohibited by the Assembly from bearing improper titles. Perhaps, like Archbishop Leighton, he did not think the pompous title of my Lord would add anything to the dignity of his character. He died on the 4th September 1644, the third year after his elevation.

The church was built in 1827. It may accommodate 500 or 600. It is a plain substantial building, planned by Burn, and cost about L. 1200. The manse was built in 1721. The offices are new.†

By a locality dated 1650, the stipend, called there the mortified rent of the parish, was at that time 55 bolls bear; 83 bolls meal and oats; and L. 133, 6s. 8d. Scots. It is now 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, paid by the fiars of the county, with L. 10 vicarage, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The old glebe is four acres arable in extent. The grass glebe consists of six acres in arable meadow pasture. There was a long litigation about it, first before the Court of Session, and then carried by appeal to the House of Lords. It terminated in favour of the minister in 1815. The people are in general regular in their habits, and well affected to the constitution, both in church and state. Only four or five families are Seceders.

*Education.*—The parish school is attended by 30 scholars in summer, and about 40 or 50 in winter. They are taught chiefly reading, 2s. per quarter; writing, 2s. 6d.; and arithmetic, 3s. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, and his whole income is L. 50 a-year. There is also at present a school taught by a female, attended by a few girls. Several of the children are very near the schools at Newburgh, Dunbog, and Collessie, and attend there. Teachers complain that children do not remain at school.

\* Douglas's Peerage.

† Inscription on the church bell: "Joannes Burgherhuys me fecit, 1671. Soli Deo gloria. Mr Alexander Balfour, minister there, of the parish of Ebde." These words, *me fecit* seem to indicate that superstitious regard to bells which prevailed in former times, (Christian Observer, Protestant.) And even now it is well known, that, in Roman Catholic countries, they are solemnly baptized and consecrated as if intelligent agents; and, if rung with sufficient force, are thought to have great influence in banishing evil spirits, and in relieving from the pains of purgatory.

a sufficient time. They are obliged, on account of the poverty of their parents, to go to a trade, or to work for their livelihood before their education be completed.

*Poor.*—There are 12 at present on the roll, but the average number may be 7 or 8. They are supported by the session fund, which consists of the interest of L. 320, a small mortification, and the collections at the church door. There are 4 lunatics, 2 furious, and confined in the asylums of Perth and Dundee, 2 others tractable, and kept in the country. The rest are old infirm people. The whole are maintained for about L. 50 a-year, of which the heritors contribute a part by a voluntary assessment. The church collections amount to about L. 14 per annum. L. 200 of the poor's money was lost lately by the failure of the person in whose hands it was placed.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It would contribute greatly to the comfort of the parish, could the necessary articles of coal and lime be procured at a more reasonable rate. They are very dear at present. Whether coals are bought at Newburgh shore, or sent for to the Balbirnie or other coal pits, they cost 10s. a single cart load, and lime is proportionally expensive. Therefore, a railway has been talked of from the New Inn to Newburgh, and I doubt not but in some future time this improvement may take place. It would also be desirable, could the waters of the lake be confined within a narrower compass by such operations as have lately been carried through at Lochleven. By these means, a more equable supply of water might be furnished to the mills, and many acres of marshy and useless ground might be rendered arable. This, too, is an improvement which the lapse of time may bring about. Much has been done since last Report; many waste acres have been reclaimed; the hills are now cultivated nearer to the summit; the grounds are better enclosed; and the houses and cottages much improved.

*March 1836.*



# PARISH OF NEWBURGH.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN ANDERSON, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE parish of Newburgh was created in the year 1632, by an act of separation and disjunction from Abdie, and obviously derived its name from that of the town, which contains nearly its whole inhabitants, and which has existed from a very early period. Borough towns and corporations are not older in Scotland than the eleventh century; and very early in the thirteenth, mention is made of the “*Novus burgus juxta Monasterium de Lindoris.*” It appears from a register of the abbey, that the inhabitants were bound to pay to the abbot there “*a ferm of a merk*” annually, for every brew-house with an acre of land in the said new burgh. Among other reasons for the erection of the parish, it is set forth in the deed of disjunction, that “*whereas the kirks of Ebdie and Newburgh have been separate these many years by-past, by act of Synodial Assemblies, &c. humbly desire therefore the said commissioners to ratify the said separation.*” The separation alluded to and craved to be affirmed was effected in the year 1622, under the sanction and authority of the Archbishop of St Andrews. By a subsequent application to the commissioners, a portion of the parish of Abernethy was disjoined and annexed to that of Newburgh.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish, which forms the eastern boundary of Strathearn, extends about 2 miles at its greatest length from east to west, and about 3 miles in breadth from north to south. It is bounded by the river Tay on the north; on the east, south, and west by the parishes of Abdie and Abernethy; its southern extremity also touches Auchtermuchty and Collessie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its figure is very irregular, being nearly divided into two separate sections, by the encroachments of Abdie on the east, and Abernethy on the west, giving to the southern portion the form of a triangle, while the northern assumes very much the appearance of the rhomboid. The extent

of coast, washed by the river Tay, is about two miles, the eastern portion being low and flat, and the western towards Mugdrum, rising gently into a sort of table land, thence continuing its ascent to the south, till it attains an elevation of about 800 feet at the Black Cairn, which forms the summit. Alternate elevations and depressions mark its progress southwards, when at Pitcairly it begins to assume a gentle slope, fringed on the east, for a considerable distance, by a rivulet which issues from Loch-mill, and falls into the Eden at Auchtermuchty. An arm of the parish projects towards the south-west, reaching an elevation of about 600 feet at Craig-sparrow; the ridge which terminates in that abrupt rock near to Newburgh on the south-east, which excites the admiration and sometimes awakens the terror of strangers in passing along the road immediately under it, belongs to the parish of Abdie. Here it sweeps along in a beautiful level by the ruins of Lindores, bounded on the east by a streamlet which issues from the lake of the same name, and falls into the Tay at the Pow, which forms the north-east point of the parish.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The climate is healthy and salubrious. The northern district of the parish may be reckoned an exposed situation, where the north-east winds blow up the Frith of Tay with piercing keenness during certain months of the year; but, from the hills which skirt it on the south, the town is more than ordinarily sheltered from the prevailing gales in that direction. There are no marsh or fen lands in the parish, and it does not appear that the rains are either more frequent or copious than in the surrounding district. The fogs which prevail so much in Strathearn during the winter and spring months are almost unknown. Attracted, accordingly, by the beauty of the situation, and its easy access by steam and coach conveyance, families from a distance are beginning to resort to the town of Newburgh during summer; and certainly a more agreeable retreat for change of air and recreation can scarcely be supposed. The most common diseases are fevers, consumptions, and dysenteries.

*Hydrography.*—The Tay forms the northern boundary of the parish, and, though running through no part of it, may well find a place in the Statistical Account of any district that reaches to its borders. This noble river, having received the accession of the water of the Earn, begins to assume at Newburgh the appearance of an arm of the sea. It is there about two miles broad. When the tide is full, its waters are always brackish, and after long droughts,



contain a very considerable quantity of saline matter, although it does not appear that any marine plants approach nearer than two miles from this place. Mugdrum Island, which belongs to the parish of Abernethy, divides the river into two nearly equal portions,—where, collecting itself into two currents, it passes along the opposite sides of the island, in what are termed the *North and South Deeps*, the South Deep forming the principal channel, and furnishing the course which vessels of burden usually hold, in passing up and down the river. Ships of 500 tons burden reach the shore at Newburgh; but above the confluence of the Earn, several miles beyond which Perth is situated, vessels of 150 tons, when deep laden, proceed with difficulty. A dredging-machine has lately been erected for deepening the upper part of the channel, and meantime, to remedy the difficulties of navigation, a steamer has been employed in dragging up lighters, which convey the cargoes of the larger vessels that land at Dundee, in which the foreign trade of Perth is carried on. Operations are now going on upon a very extensive scale for contracting the North Deep, by projecting stone dikes from the opposite banks into the bed of the river, where the intervening spaces rapidly *silt* up, and form in a few years solid alluvial deposits, fit, when embanked, for agricultural purposes. Mugdrum Island and the adjacent *carses* have already received great accessions in this way, and the period cannot be far distant, when, if these changes proceed at their present rate, a former state of things will return of which tradition still speaks, when the inhabitants dwelling on the opposite banks of “the lordly Tay” conversed together across its channel. The majesty of the stream will be thereby greatly diminished, but its utility, both in an agricultural and commercial point of view, will be proportionally enhanced.

Many excellent springs are to be found within the limits of the parish, from which the town is supplied with a constant and copious flow of that first necessary of life. One of these springs, which rises in the south-west, in the hilly district, is called the *Nine Wells*; and though that precise number of openings cannot now be traced, there is little doubt, as tradition relates, that the name was really descriptive of the true character of the fountain. The discharge from the several openings is copious and of the purest quality, and being immediately collected into one current, forms no inconsiderable stream, which has lately been profitably employed in the operations of a bleachfield. Here, amidst the barbarous practices of a bygone age, those who claimed the privileges of clan Macduff at the cross,

which stands in the immediate vicinity, were required to wash off the stains from their murderous hands, to which reference is made in the well known inscription on that ancient monument,

“ And by their only washing at this stone,  
Purged is the blood, shed by that generation.”

*Geology, Soil.*—The county of Fife, of which the parish of Newburgh forms the north-west extremity, may be regarded in a geological view as one of the most interesting in the whole island, rich in organic remains, and in all those important facts which belong to the carboniferous era. Although this parish partakes of few or none of its distinguishing characteristics, one or two observations may be permitted on the materials in its immediate neighbourhood, from which the relative position of its own may be best ascertained, and in which some interesting valuable facts recently brought to light may be stated. Immediately on the east, along the margin of the Tay, the old red sandstone appears, on which there rests a bed of limestone, and corresponding to this on the opposite side of the river, a similar bed is to be found in the property of Mewrie. Not far from the limestone and nearer to Newburgh, there is a bed of calmsone with vegetable impressions, and the flowering portion, in considerable numbers, of what Dr Fleming considers a *Scirpus*. It lies immediately under clinkstone trap, and although the junction cannot be traced with regard to the sand and limestones, its position is unquestionably that of an upper member of the series. A similar bed, with identically the same impressions, occurs near the mouth of the river in the parish of Arbroath. The parish of Abernethy, on the west, likewise displays sections of the old red sandstone, and at a very elevated position, on the very summit of the Ochils, a conglomerate bed of limestone may be observed. Near the church of Dron, a clayslate or calmsone, similar to that on the east of Newburgh, occurs in the same relative position to the stratified and amorphous rocks, but without, as far as has yet been observed, vegetable impressions. Intermediate between what has now been described, rises the parish of Newburgh, in one unbroken undulating mass of trap, the lower portion, immediately above the town, being a fine-grained porphyritic greenstone; that in the higher ridges approaches to a compact feldspar, and on the property of Pitcairly, beds of trap tuffa may be traced. In the small veins which occur abundantly in the greenstone, may be observed crystals of quartz, carbonate of lime, barytes and olivine; the feldspar rocks contain nodules of claystone and jaspery agates, the



latter very numerous, and approaching in character and beauty to the Mocha-stone. The parks or table land of Mugdrum is an accumulation of the debris of the old red sandstone and other gravelly matter, of great depth, and furnishes, in a geological point of view, some interesting problems as to the causes of its accumulation, at this particular spot. Peat occurs immediately on the south, where the surface dips considerably, forming the bed of a loch which has been lately drained, and in the low fields of Pitcairly, there is abundance of the same fossil.

Along the sides and summits of the hills, boulders of the primitive rocks, granite, gneiss, quartz, mica-slate with garnets, and primitive greenstone, occur in the greatest abundance, and many of them of the most unwieldy dimensions. Towards their base, and skirting the southern boundary of the valley, there are various accumulations of a fine dark-red sand, containing rolled masses from a few inches to one foot in diameter, which belong for the most part to the secondary rocks. The materials, in both cases, have evidently been brought from the west, and considering that the heaviest boulders occupy the most elevated position, are we not warranted to infer the existence of two separate currents, of unequal magnitude and of different ages, as the agents of transportation? This remark applies to several of the adjacent parishes, where similar appearances may be observed.

A well, which was lately opened here, on the sloping bank beneath the town, exhibits the following interesting beds, and affords the geologist an excellent illustration of the *alluvium* formation in this quarter. It is 30 feet in depth, and intersects four distinct deposits. The first of these, about 5 feet thick, is a rich alluvial clay, common to all the lowlands in the district: a bed of peat succeeds, composed of the usual materials which are found in that substance, with the addition of branches of the *Alnus glutinosa* and *Corylus avellana*, and many minute seeds belonging, apparently, from their angular shape, to the *Carex* tribe of plants. This bed is about 2 feet thick, and belongs to the great deposit which extends throughout Strathearn and the lower basin of the Tay. Under the peat, is a deposit of  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick, of extremely fine sand, of a light-blue colour, and very unctuous in its character; it contains a considerable quantity of magnesia, which may be derived from the decomposition of steatite, so abundant in the greenstone in the neighbourhood. But what is most remarkable here is the fact, that this matter is confined entirely to this single bed—not a par-

ticle of which is to be found in the superincumbent peat, or in the underlying stratum. What peculiar agency has produced this? The lowest bed of the series and the depth of which is unknown, is a plastic clay or *till*, containing boulders of the secondary rocks, mixed up with the debris of the old red sandstone. The surface of the ground here is about 40 feet above the level of the Tay, and the geologist will naturally inquire, whether it occupied the same level, or what was its condition, during the formation of the above-mentioned deposits?

The soil in the upper part of the parish, though generally of little depth, is of great fertility. It mostly consists of either a loose black loam, or of a more compact, ferruginous mould. Here the entire property of Pitcairly, through an intelligent and enterprising tenantry, has been brought into the highest state of cultivation, and marks itself out to the traveller among the Ochils as an insulated spot of singular beauty and fertility. The soil on the north-east of the town, where the ground is low and flat, consists of the richest clay, not inferior to the best portions of the Carse of Gowrie.\*

*Botany.*—It were easy to give a full and detailed account of this branch of natural history, as the writer has examined, he thinks, every plant within the bounds of the parish, with the exception of the Lichens and some of the Fungi. The celebrated Don used frequently to traverse this neighbourhood, and the results of his researches are amply detailed in his Catalogue as well as in Hooker's *Flora Scotica*, where, from the frequency of reference, the student will find that Newburgh, in proportion to its extent, contributes liberally to the Flora of the island. Along with the usual plants common in the neighbourhood, the following are of rarer occurrence. On the banks of Tay and woods of Mugdrum, along with seven or eight species of *Ranunculus*, the *Lychnis*, *Valeriana*, *Veronica*, *Scirpus*, *Carex*, *Juncus*, and *Glaux*, there are to be found *Geum rivale*, *Alisma plantago*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Arundo phragmites*, *Artemisia maritima*, *Senecio aquaticus*; also *Gnaphalium supinum* and *gallicum*, *Erythræa pulchella*, *Gentiana campestris*,

\* The soil within the enclosures of the Abbey is a remarkably deep black loam, which, as tradition will have it, was brought by the monks from Ireland, and is therefore untrodden by venomous reptiles! Classical authority can be adduced to attest the fact, although experience be against it. "Serpentes alit innoxios. Nullumque venenatum animal ibi aluit."—Lesly's *Historia Scotica*. "Neminem enim a serpentibus lividis in ea unquam est visum. Necq. in ulla circum regione Scotiae tanta eorum copia conspectum. Ipse vidi adolescentem puerili ludo in campo salientem in medium colubrorum gregem incidisse ac intactum illorum abysse."—Boethius, *Vita Wil. Regis*, Lib. xiii.



*Dispsacus sylvestris*, *Asperula odorata*, *Lythrum salicaria*, *Reseda luteola* and *lutea*, *Agrimonia Eupatoria*, &c.

Within the small enclosure of the ruins of Lindores, we meet with a variety of plants, some of which are rare, if not extirpated entirely in the district; of these may be noticed the *Hyoscyamus niger*, which was once abundant in the neighbourhood. Like the wild beasts of our forests, it has been expelled from our fields; only one plant, of surpassing stateliness and beauty, reared its head this season, and none have been seen for many years. The *Galanthus nivalis* is becoming equally shy in its chilly modest aspect; but in abundance may be found *Cynoglossum officinale*, *Mercurialis perennis*, *Scrophularia vernalis* and *nodosa*, *Erysimum alliaria*, *Hyacinthus non-scriptus*, *Stellaria holostea*, *Verbascum lonchitis*, *Allium ursinum*, *Parietaria officinalis*, *Chelidonium majus*, *Berberis vulgaris*, *Papaver somniferum*, (only once observed;) *Lactuca virosa*, *Malva sylvestris*, &c.; of the *Filices*, the *Scolopendrium*, *Blechnum*, and *Adiantum* are in abundance.

In the hilly district we have the *Pyrola media*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Linum catharticum*, *Genista anglica*, *Primula veris*, *Oxalis acetosella*, *Pinguicula vulgaris*, *Nymphaea alba*, and *Nuphar lutea*. Among the grasses, *Poa decumbens*, *Briza media*, *Eriophorum capitatum*, and *Anthoxanthum odoratum*: of *Musci*, *Bryum*, *Bartramia*, *Grimmia*, *Hypnum*, *Polytrichum*: of *Fungi*, along with the *Agaricus* 8 species, the *Phallus fætidus* is sometimes met with.

The principal woods are, Mugdrum, covering a surface along the banks of the Tay of about 34 imperial acres, and consisting chiefly of spruce and larch firs; those of Pitcairly, extending to about 12 imperial acres, which contain a considerable portion of the hard woods, ash, beech, elm, and plane-tree, interspersed with the usual varieties of *coniferæ*; about 41 imperial acres of the town's property has been lately planted with larch, spruce, and Scotch firs. No portion of the ancient wood of Earnside now exists, not even a vestige of its brushwood. The Abbey of Lindores, which, Camden says, "was placed among the woods," can still boast of a few fruit trees, which, though in ruins like itself, attract the notice of the passenger by their superb venerable appearance. The identical trees of which Sir Robert Sibbald speaks, ("witness the vastly big old pear trees there,") as a proof of the richness of the soil, are still many of them remaining. The orchards of much later origin, in the immediate vicinity of the town, are in a very thriving

condition, abound in fruit of the finest quality, and covering an extent, as they do, of nearly 40 imperial acres, are a source of considerable profit to their proprietors. It is impossible, while touching on the subject of trees, those easy bought beauties of nature, not to lament that the hilly ridges on the south and east of Newburgh should have been suffered to remain so long unplanted. Let us hope that their present proprietor, into whose hands they have lately passed, will add to his deserved reputation as one of the most successful agriculturists in Fife, by adorning with a few clumps of plantation the sloping eminences of these picturesque hills.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The town of Newburgh, from the charter already referred to, seems to be coeval with the erection of the monastery of Lindores. It was early created a burgh of regality, under the abbot of that place; and as these monastic institutions were then the sole depositaries of learning, and the centres whence civilization and improvements of every kind were diffused around, Newburgh unquestionably is indebted for its origin, as well as most of its privileges, to its vicinity to the abbey. The inhabitants are uniformly addressed as the "*Nostri burgenses*" of the ecclesiastical authorities there, and the whole property possessed by the burgh in the Woodruff and adjacent hills was derived from the same. In the year 1600, James VI. erected the abbacy of Lindores\* into a temporal lordship; and in the year 1631, Charles I. granted a charter to the town of Newburgh, forming the community into a proper royal burgh, with all the immunities and privileges that are

\* King Alexander III. granted to the abbot and convent of Lindores, "ut ipsi et eorum successores in perpetuum habeant villam eorumque dicitur novus burgus juxta monasterium de Lindores in liberum burgum; et forum in eodem burgo quolibet die Martis cum libertatibus burgi et fori, salvis in omnibus burgorum nostrorum libertatibus."

On the 4th July 1457, Abbot John granted to the burgesses of Newburgh the land of Vodrufe and the hill to the south of it, for which they were to pay to the Abbot homage and common service, use and wont, of forty bolls of barley. Among the stipulations for enforcing the conditions of this contract, it is provided, "Si contingat aliquem vel aliquos predictorum burgensium procurare prece vel pretio aliquem nobilem seu dominum in fomentum et auxilium oppositionis eorum in contrarium et prejudicium libertatis et privilegii nostri (abbatis et conventus) et ipse et ipsi hujusmodi enormia committens aut committentes perdet et perdet totum et quicquid tenet et tenent de nobis et successoribus nostris tam in dicto novo burgo quam in dictis terris de Vodrufe et de monte."

For the above and the other interesting charters referred to in this account, I am indebted to the kindness of Mr Cosmo Innes, Advocate, who is not more intimately acquainted with this dark page in the history of our country, than skillful in deciphering the dingy black-letter MSS. in which these memorials are preserved. I have also to acknowledge the exertions of my talented friend Mr De Maria, Advocate, who was the means of discovering for me in the Advocates' Library the whole existing chartularies of the Abbey of Lindores, extracts from which are here given.



usually conferred on such corporations. Along with Falkland and Auchtermuchty, it early lost, or ceased to exercise, its right in the election of a representative to Parliament; and though from its rapidly increasing population and greatly extended trade, so as to render it the third town in commercial enterprise in Fife, its former privilege might fairly have been restored under the new charter, its voice has been allowed to merge in the general constituency of the county. By the returns of the last registration the town and parish number eighty voters. In all other respects, Newburgh retains the features of a royal burgh; its revenue, though still inconsiderable, has greatly increased of late years, being about L. 170. It has two magistrates and a weekly court, fifteen councillors, and a clerk to record its public proceedings. In the progress of its civil history, nothing remarkable has been made the subject of record; it has given birth to many respectable individuals, but the writer can discover no name in its annals that would require a separate notice under the head of "Eminent Men."

*Land-owners.*—The present land-owners are, David Balfour Hay, Esq. of Leys, proprietor of Mugdrum and the lands of Lindores, amounting to 400 imperial acres; Taylor Cathcart, Esq. proprietor of Pitcairly, 429 imperial acres. The extent of property belonging to the borough is 178 imperial acres; and the remainder of the parish, amounting to 24 imperial acres, is shared among twenty smaller proprietors, called here, as in other parts of the country, *portioners*. To these latter belong the sections of the out-field land of the Woodriff, which are called *half-parts*, but most of which have recently been purchased by the proprietor of Mugdrum.

*Parochial Registers.*—The records of the kirk-session date from the year 1652. In the earlier period they have been very correctly kept, and contain many interesting allusions to passing events. \*

*Antiquities.*—At the north-east extremity of the parish near the river Tay, on a gentle rise, in the middle of a rich and extensive flat of clay land, appear the ruins of the Abbey of Lindores. Concerning the history of this abbey, while it continued under the power of the church, or after it was erected into a temporal lordship, nothing remarkable has been recorded by the annalists of the times, except that, from its great wealth and extensive privileges, it

\* A long account of the trial of a woman accused of witchcraft is quoted in the former Statistical notice of the parish. Some curious information, extracted from them, is to be found in a volume recently published by the Abbotsford Club. They are brought down with some interruptions to the present time.

seems to have been an object of ambition to the aspiring ecclesiastics of the day. It was founded by David Earl of Huntingdon in the year 1178, in memory of his taking Ptolemais in the Holy Land. It was bestowed upon the monks of St Benedict, of the order of the Tironenses, was dedicated to the Virgin Mary and St Andrew the apostle, and from grants bestowed upon it, from time to time, it came to be one of the most richly endowed monasteries in the kingdom. The founder of it died at Geconlay, and was buried at Soltray in the year 1219. Robert the Bruce pretended to the crown by his mother, daughter to this Earl, in 1218. St Bernard was the founder of the order at Tiron of France, who, in addition to the rules instituted by St Benedict, added new regulations of his own, which required that each of the brethren should practise within the convent whatever mechanical art he knew. Accordingly, the monasteries of the order contained within them painters, carvers, carpenters, smiths, masons, vine-dressers, and husbandmen, who were under the direction of an elder, and the profits of their work were applied to the common use.

David I. was the greatest benefactor of the order, who visited the original monastery, and on his return sent for thirteen monks in the year 1113, whom he afterwards made provision for in the monastery of Kelso, which was erected in the immediate vicinity of his palace there. The monasteries of Aberbrothoc, Lindores, and Kilwinning were planted from Kelso; but the Abbot John granted a charter, in which he quits all claim to the subjection and obedience of the Abbot of Aberbrothoc; and it is probable that the convents of Lindores and Kilwinning obtained a similar exemption, as there is no mention of their being subject to the parent monastery.

In the chartulary of Lindores preserved in the Advocates' Library there are two charters of Earl David, by the one of which he grants "to the church of St Mary and St Andrew of Lindoris, and the monks there serving God, the island which is called Fedinch, (Mugdrum?) and all the fishings in Tay, adjoining the said island, except one, viz. a yair at Tolcrik:" and by the other, the Earl gives to his monks of Lindores "a right of taking stone from his quarry in Irneside, both for their church and other buildings." By another charter, King William the Lyon granted to the Abbey a full toft in each of the royal burghs of Berwick, Strivolen (Stirling,) Crail, Perth, Forfare, Munros, Aberdene.—Alexander III. in two charters granted "to the abbot and convent their whole wood in



the fee of Fyntreth, and their whole wood with their lands of Lindoris in free forestry." Isabella de Brous gave to the abbey her land of Cragyn, near Dundee, with all her land in the town of Melneton, and in the town of Abraham (villa Abrahe.) James II. granted to the abbey "his lands of Parkhill, and also the office of forestry of his wood of Ironside, lying in the lands of Parkhill in Fyfe."

Of the abbots and other dignified clergy connected with this monastery, not many particulars have been recorded. Fordun mentions Guido as the first, and that he was succeeded by Thomas, a man of great sanctity; upon whose death, John, one of the priors, was raised to the dignity of abbot. This individual was buried at Kelso, and was succeeded by Nicholas Cellerarius de Lindores. One name in the list of more distinguished eminence occurs, Lawrence, who had been a Doctor of Civil Law at St Andrews, and was associated with Bishop Wardlaw in laying the foundation of a university there. "*Magnus Theologus et vitæ venerabilis vir,*" we can therefore believe him to have been; but as if to tarnish the lustre derived from this literary achievement, the same authority has recorded of him, "*et heretico pravitatis inquisitor,*" and instances the case of Jacob Resby, an English priest, and one of the followers of Wykliff, whom he condemned to be burned at Perth, upon a charge of forty articles of heresy. He was the first individual in Scotland who suffered for anti-papistry, in the year 1408, a curious account of whose trial is given in the *Scotichronicon*. At this period, a new impulse was given to learning; the long night of comparative ignorance and superstition was giving way to the rising dawn of knowledge and truth; its light had already exposed many of the errors of papal theology, and was marshalling the way to that removal of its corruptions which was completed in the succeeding century at the Reformation. Many of the clergy and even monks and friars in England, had embraced the opinions of the proto-reformers, Wykliff and Huss. Lawrence of Lindores seems to have been a man of great firmness and decision, and was raised by the Pope to the high office of Inquisitor in Scotland; and we soon after find him engaged in the condemnation of another heretic, one Paul Crawar, a Bohemian, who came into this country as a physician. He embraced with great zeal and success the opportunities which his profession afforded him, of inculcating his opinions, but was speedily interrupted in the midst

of his useful labours, and was burned at St Andrews in the year 1433.\*

Knox speaks of one Lesly, who was Abbot of Lindores and Bishop of Ross, whom he calls Priest-gate, but is afterwards favourably mentioned by him as having "put some reformation to his place, anno 1560." He was chosen a Lord of the Articles in Parliament held in that year. Patrick of Lindores succeeded him, and was appointed one of the undertakers for planting lowland men in the isle of Lewis, 1602. The last notice of any of these dignitaries is contained in Calderwood's History, where, among the number of those who were assembled at Westminster in 1606, to deliberate on the comparative merits of Episcopacy and Presbytery, "John Abbot of Lindores" is simply mentioned as being present. And thus terminates with him the obscure history of a monastery which once possessed the patronage of twenty-two parish churches, and claimed a right of property in seven of the chief royal burghs of Scotland.

Corresponding to the wealth of the institution, the buildings, which are now in utter ruins, appear to have been on a scale of suitable magnitude, and, if an opinion can be formed from the specimens which remain, clothed as they now are with clustering piles of ivy, they display a style of architecture which reflects credit on the taste of our forefathers. The vestibule of the church, which occupies the centre of the building, is yet in such a state of preservation, as to indicate at once the extent and character of the work, and which, along with the massiveness of the walls, irresistibly lead the spectator to conclude that it must have been both a spacious and elegant structure. In the process of dilapidation to which it was most unceremoniously subjected, but which is now fortunately interdicted, a stone coffin was exhumed, which is said to have contained the body of the Duke of Rothsay, who was so barbarously murdered in the palace of Falkland, and privately interred, according to Winton, in this monastery. Here unquestionably the last of the noble house of Douglas found an asylum,† and

\* Monastic Annals of Teviotdale.

† The history of Douglas says, that James ninth Earl of Douglas being taken prisoner at Burneswark-hill, by a brother of the laird of Closeburn, was ordered to be put into the Abbey of Lindores, where he remained till the day of his death in 1488, whereupon the following verses were written :

Quod rides rasumque caput, cellaque recessum?

Quodque cucullatis fratribus anumerer?

Fortuna volvente vicos fiet modo Princeps,

Plebeius; monarchus sæpe monacha fuit.

Thus translated,



after a chequered life, spent amidst the toils and cruelties of civil war, engaged in the cloistered services of a penitent ecclesiastic; but no inscription points out the place of his interment, and whether the coffin may be his, or that of the unfortunate prince to whom tradition has assigned it, is a point which cannot now be satisfactorily determined. Of the famous causeway, which extended between Lindores and the church of Ecclesia Magirdum, in the parish of Dron, whither the monks annually went to meet the nuns of Elcho, who there paid their devotions to their patron saint, not a vestige remains. In the hills on the south of the ruin, the *Monks'* and the *Abbots' Wells* are still pointed out to strangers, but the present generation have even lost the recollection, as they repose but little faith in their virtues, of the many miraculous cures which, at no very remote period, were ascribed to these waters. Upon the whole, the ruins of the Abbey of Lindores cannot be said to present anything remarkable to the prying eye of the antiquary, as the imperfect record of its affairs contains little interesting to the historian; stately fruit trees ascend from the floors of its once sacred halls, and, interspersed as these are with ivy, hazel, and flowers of all hues and colour, viewed in conjunction with mouldering fragments of the building, give to the place at large a picturesque, but melancholy air of grandeur.

The parish likewise contains two crosses of remote antiquity. One of these is situated a little to the westward of the town, among the woods, and usually called by the local name of Mugdrum Cross. The term Mugdrum is obviously a corruption of Magridin, the saint in whose honour it may have been erected, and to whom the lands of Mugdrum were dedicated. It consists of one large stone, as the representation here shows, placed upright in another, and though the transept is now completely broken off, and all the upper portion obliterated, so that the shaft only remains, there can be no doubt, from the appearance of the stone itself, as well as from its resemblance to the monuments of similar date and character, that a cruciform portion at one time surmounted what now exists. Fig. 1 represents the east face, which is divided into four compartments. The upper two, which together occupy nearly one-half of the stone, are of equal size, and contain each the remains of a man on horseback, but the rider and posterior portion

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Why do you laugh to see my shaven crown?  
 My cell, my cloister, and my hooded gown?  
 This is the power of that Sovereign Queen,  
 By whom monks, monarchs; monarchs monks have been.

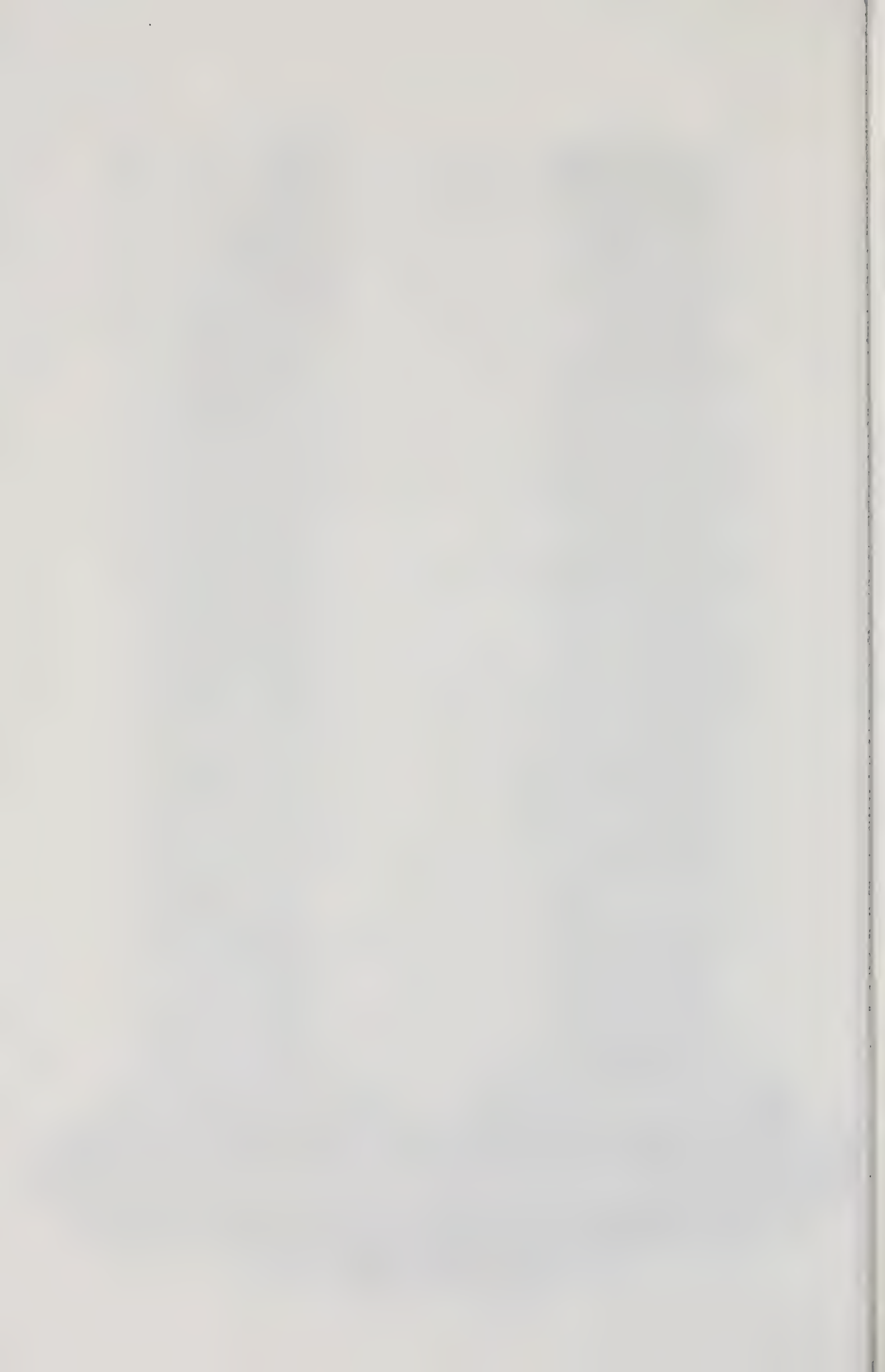
*Facing East*

*North Side*



MUDDRUM CROSS.





of the horse are effaced by the injury of the weather. The third compartment from the top contains two figures, the smaller of which appears to be in the act of being overtaken or run down by the larger. The lowest division seems to be a representation of a boar hunt. No human figures are apparent, although traces of dogs in pursuit are clearly discernible. The south and west faces of the stone are so injured that no carving can now be seen on them, though similar monuments are generally sculptured on all sides. The northern side, represented by Fig. 2, exhibits remains of two kinds of ornaments very common on such remnants of antiquity. The cross as it now stands is very little altered in its dimensions since 1723, as appears from a measurement of it which was then taken and preserved in the Advocates' Library, viz. 11 feet 6 inches high; 2 feet 4 inches broad; 1 foot 2 inches thick at the middle. It is firmly mortised into a square block of sandstone 5 feet 5 inches in length; 3 feet 6 inches broad; 2 feet thick, and which rests on the surface of the ground. The weight of the column with its pedestal may probably be about five tons. It consists of white sandstone similar to Macduff's Cross, the nearest locality of which is the Lomonds, about 8 miles south, with the hilly ridge of the Ochils intervening.

It is curious that this beautiful and very remarkable monument has escaped the notice of Sibbald and the other Fifeshire antiquaries. Nothing is known of its history. A group of five similar ones exists at Meigle, assigned to the age of King Arthur, a person of more than apocryphal existence, but who is said to have lived about the year 800. Four others of similar aspect are found at Aberlemno, which, together with one at Pitmuis and another at Moneekie, are said to commemorate the defeat of the Danes and slaughter of Camus, their chief, in the eighth century. If this is the purpose of the cross under consideration—to commemorate a similar defeat at Luncarty, about the close of the tenth century,—certainly no site could be more appropriate for it than the immediate vicinity of the family mansion, where it now stands, of the direct lineal descendants of the patriotic Hay and his stalwart sons, who turned the tide of battle, and obtained in reward the hawk's flight, being the property of Leys, which is still in their possession.\* An obelisk of precisely the same characters has just been discover-

\* Buchanan informs us, that Kenneth commanded Hay to enter Perth in triumph, with the yoke wherewith he fought, surrounded by the victorious army, where the king raised him from the plebeian rank to that of the noble, with the gift of considerable territory to support his dignity. From him spring the illustrious Hays of Leys, Errol, Kinnoul, Tweeddale, &c.



ed in the churchyard of St Madoc's, on the property which originally belonged to the Leys.

Besides the above singular monuments, one of a similar character, and said to be connected with the murder of King Malcolm, in the year 1030, exists at Glammis—another, said to commemorate the battle of Duplin, is to be seen in fine preservation at Duplin Castle in Perthshire; and fragments of exactly the same class, but as to which even the whisper of tradition is silent, are to be found at Forres, Elgin, Aboyne, Eassie, Duinnichen, Menmuir, Arthurstone, near Cupar Angus, and in the cathedral yard of St Andrews. The real history of the last of these is not to be considered more obscure than that of those in regard to which Holinshed, Fordun, and Buchanan, have written so much and recorded so little. Such is their antiquity, that the lapse of three centuries appears to have little obliterated traditions, than which nothing more remained at the time our earliest Scottish historians flourished.\*

The other is the celebrated cross of Macduff, which stands at the distance of about one mile to the south in an opening of the Ochil hills, on the confines of Strathearn, where it overlooks that beautiful valley and far distant Grampians. It consists of one large block of freestone, rudely indented in several places. According to a description given in 1712, these consisted of nine, each containing an iron staple and ring, and intended, according to tradition, for the benefit of the kindred of the powerful Thane of that name, amounting to precisely the same number, who claimed protection even against the penalties of murder, upon the payment of "nine kie and colpindach, or young kow."† The upright pillar which stood upon this base-stone, was destroyed by the reformers on their way from Perth to the Abbey of Lindores in 1559.‡

\* Gordon's Itinerarium.

† Fordun says with regard to this privilege, "Quod etiam ipse et omnes in posterum, de sua cognatione, pro *subitanea et improvisa occisione*, gauderent privilegio legis Macduff, ubi *generosus occidens* solvendo viginti quatuor marcas ad Kinbot, et vernaculus duodecim marcas, remissionem plenariam exinde reportaret;" which would seem to limit considerably the ferocity of the privilege.—Lib. v. chap. 9.

‡ The inscription upon it, as taken about that period by the son of Sir James Balfour of Denmile, the celebrated annalist, is as follows:—

Maldraradum dragos, mairia, laghslita, largos,  
Spelando spados, sive nig fig knighthite gnaros  
Lothea leudiscos laricingen lairia liscos  
Et colovurtos sic fit tibi bursia burtus  
Exitus, et bladadrum sive lim sive lam sive labrum.  
Propter Magridin et hoc oblatum.  
Accipe smeleridem super limthide lamthida labrum.

Mr Cunningham, in his learned essay upon this singular inscription, regards the words as Saxon intermixed with Latin, and the whole "aped in a Latine dress," be-

The various tumuli around the cross seen by a former generation, and said to contain the earthly remains of those who failed to establish the claims of kindred, have given way to the leveling operations of the ploughshare, and the nightly traveller is no longer haunted, even in imagination, by the shrieks of the ghosts that were heard at no very remote period, by the superstitious of the neighbourhood. There is, however, about 200 yards to the westward, a cairn of stones which is called *Sir Robert's Prap*, and which is said to contain the body of Sir Robert Balfour, laird of Denmile, who was slain in a duel there, by some neighbouring proprietor, about the beginning of last century.

*Modern Buildings.*—Under this head, may be included a very considerable portion of the town of Newburgh, which, within these fifty years, may be said to have been entirely rebuilt. Its suburbs are all of modern and of very recent origin. A town-house with a spire was erected in 1808, and there has lately been attached to it a building of considerable dimensions, for the accommodation of those engaged in the stock-market. The parish church was erected in 1833; it is a handsome and elegant structure, designed by William Burn, architect, and of the Gothic style. The manse, built about fifty years ago, has undergone a thorough repair since the admission of the present incumbent, and, though not an elegant, is certainly a very convenient, house: it stands on the slop-

ing a charter from Malcolm Canmore to Macduff, "with the benefits he enjoyed by virtue thereof, or the immunities, freedoms, and pardons indulged by, and conferred upon, that girth." The cross is the oldest regality in this country, whence we have the phrase, *The Kingdom of Fife*, an epithet certainly given to no other shire, "as if Mackduff had enjoyed his estate much after the way of Hugh Lupus in his earldom of Chester, of whom, it is said, he enjoyed that earldom from his uncle the Conqueror, 'adeo libere ad gladium, sicut ipse rex tenebat totam Angliam ad coronam.'" The last who claimed the privilege of the sanctuary as being within the degrees of kindred, was, according to Skeen, *de Verb. Signif. voce* clan-Makduff, one Spence of Wormeston, upon his killing an individual of the name of Kinninmonth. Sir W. Scott has made it the subject of a poem, from which we transcribe these lines, as they contain at once an accurate description of its locality, and of nearly all that is otherwise known of it:

————— Mark that fragment,  
I mean that rough-hewn block of massive stone,  
Placed on the summit of this mountain-pass,  
Commanding prospect wide o'er field and fell,  
And peopled village and extended moorland,  
And the wide ocean and majestic Tay,  
To the far distant Grampians. Do not deem it  
A loosen'd portion of the neighbouring rock  
Detached by storm and thunder—'twas the pedestal  
On which in ancient times, a cross was reared,  
Carved with words which foil'd philologists;  
And the events it did commemorate  
Were dark, remote, and undistinguishable,  
As were the mystic characters it bore.



ing bank to the south-east of the town, and commands an extensive view of the river Tay, and fertile Carse of Gowrie. The House of Mugdrum, beautifully situated on the banks of the river to the north-west of the town, is a large and extensive building, and was erected in 1786. The shore of Newburgh consisted till of late of three continuous piers, projecting into the south deep of the Tay. Two additional ones towards the eastward have, within these few years, been completed, with several dwelling-houses, store-houses, granaries, and other conveniences for commerce. The street, which has been long paved with stones, has just been relaid with new blocks of excellent quality; the elevations along the southern range have been either taken away, or levelled down to a more gentle slope; so that from the superior style of architecture which now prevails throughout the town, and the increased dimension of the houses, Newburgh may be considered as having some pretensions to neatness, as well as cleanness in its general outline and character. These buildings are all constructed of the greenstone trap, found in the parish or immediate neighbourhood, with the exception of the ornamental parts, which are formed of freestone from the quarries of Cupar-moor, Hilton, Cullelo, and Kingoodie. A gas company has just been formed, and operations will immediately commence for the manufactory and introduction to our streets and houses, of this beautiful element of light.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755, amounted to 1347

1801,	.	1664
1811,	.	2118
1821,	.	2190
1831,	.	2642

The country district has remained nearly stationary in its amount of population, while the suburban part has more than doubled the number of souls belonging to it. Thus distributed, the population stands thus,

In the town,	.	.	.	2458
suburbs and shore,	.	.	.	281
landward,	.	.	.	129

The number of individuals or families engaged in trade are, manufacturers, 13; corn-merchants, 4; grocers and other retailers, 21; bakers, 9; butchers, 4; medical practitioners, 3; stationer, 1.

The number of families,	.	.	.	530
Average number of children in each,	.	.	.	5
Number of inhabited houses,	.	.	.	285
Do. of blind, 0; of deaf and dumb, 2.	.	.	.	

During the last three years there have been 9 illegitimate births in the parish.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The people are in general active and industrious, and, with the usual exceptions which occur almost invariably in manufacturing and sea-port districts, merit the praise of sobriety. The great bulk of them are attentive to the ordinances of religion and the education of their children. The rising generation are supplied from parish libraries with excellent and instructive books. These are read with much interest; and the time is not far distant, when Newburgh, which has hitherto been noted for commercial enterprise, will also be distinguished for a moral, religious, and a well-informed people. “No person belonging to the parish of Newburgh,” says Dr Stuart, “has suffered the punishment of death for any crime within the period to which its records extend.” To this notice in the former Statistical Account, the writer of the present one has only to add, that, in 1661, two women belonging to the town were hanged at Cupar, accused of the crime of witchcraft, and for causing, under the influence of that “black art, the minister’s house, Mr Lawrence Oliphant, to be burnt.” As in former times, “Newburgh supplied the navy of Great Britain with steady, well-behaved, and gallant men,” the character of its seamen still continues to be held in estimation.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—

There are in cultivation,	. . .	737 imperial acres.
Waste or pasture,	. . .	280
Under wood,	. . .	88
Under fruit trees,	. . .	40

*Rent of Land.*—The valued rent of the parish amounts to L. 1958, 17s. 6d. Scotch. Its real rent is about L. 2400 Sterling. The average rent of the clay lands in the immediate vicinity is L. 6. In the southern and hilly part of the parish it is about L. 3, 10s. The greater part of the town’s property has but recently been brought into cultivation,—the rent of which, for the new land, is about 10s. per acre, but upon the renewal of the leases may be expected to average quadruple that sum.

*Rate of Wages.*—The rate of labour for farm work is, for ploughmen, from L. 10 to L. 12 per annum, with an allowance of 2 pecks of oatmeal per week, and 1 pint of sweet milk per day. Female house-servants have from L. 5 to L. 6 per annum. Male labourers have 1s. 6d., and female, 8d. per day. Weavers, according to their expertness, can earn from 8s. to 14s. per week. Masons, wrights, and ship-carpenters have 2s. 6d. per day. Sailors, from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3 per month.



*Husbandry.*—There are only four farms in the parish of any extent, the remaining lands being so subdivided and parcelled out among feuars and burghal heritors, as not to consist of more than a single plough's labour. The whole may be considered in a very high state of cultivation, and farmed according to the most improved system of husbandry. There is no sheep pasturage, nor any grass parks but such as are in proprietors' own hands. The duration of leases on the estate of Pitcairly is for the period of nineteen years, and on that of Mugdrum from seven to ten years. Considerable improvements have lately been made in draining, by adopting, as has been done with the greatest success in the clay lands, the wedge form of draining. The higher grounds have been much benefited by the cultivation of turnips, manured with bone dust, and eating off the crop with sheep, after which, crops of barley, of the most luxuriant description and of the finest quality, have been reaped. The Chevalier variety is beginning to be introduced here, and, from the trial made, it is found to be much heavier in quality, and more abundant in quantity, with a considerable increase also of straw.

*Fisheries.*—The fishing of salmon is carried on to a considerable extent here, and the fish are reckoned of superior quality. When the tide has ebbed, the river leaves a great portion of its bed dry, where the fine silicious sand, borne along by its current, has accumulated into large banks, which are designated by different names, and belong to different proprietors. Upon these the fishermen, during the period of low water, ply with unwearied diligence their exciting occupation,—affording to about 60 of the weavers of Newburgh a healthful as well as lucrative recreation from their sedentary in-door labours, during the summer months. The number of boats employed in 1835 was 32, managed by 64 men. One fishing station, with two boats, has realized 250 salmon, 610 grilses, with a proportional number of trouts. The average price of salmon is about 5d. to 8d., trout and grilses, from 3d. to 4d. per lb. Wages, about 10s. 6d. per week, with a bounty of 6d. upon each salmon; 2d., grilse; and 1d., trout. After supplying the town and neighbourhood abundantly with this “richest delicacy of the great deep,” considerable quantities are exported to London in the Dundee steam-packets, where, after a voyage of thirty-six to forty hours, they are brought to the market, little injured in quality or freshness. The spiriling, or *Salmo eperlanus* of naturalists, also abounds here, which is now the only station in the

Frith of Tay where it is caught. The nets for this purpose are fixed by stakes in the rapids, produced by the heads or dikes which project into the river; and continue, while the river is clear of ice, during the winter months. A heavy speat is likewise unfavourable to the fishing. The spirling is much relished by the inhabitants, and also at Perth, where it finds a ready market, from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per hundred.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, may be valued as under :

Grain of all kinds,	.	.	.	.	.	.	L. 3154
Potatoes, turnips, &c.	.	.	.	.	.	.	1295
Hay,	.	.	.	.	.	.	308
Land in pasture,	.	.	.	.	.	.	200
Gardens and orchards, which includes value of potatoes raised in ditto, being for domestic use,	.	.	.	.	.	.	900
Fisheries,	.	.	.	.	.	.	120
							<hr/> L. 5977

*Stock.*—Number of horses and cattle in the parish of Newburgh for year 1835 :—1. Country district, 50 horses; 45 milk cows; and 78 cattle. 2. Town of Newburgh, 35 horses; 75 milk cows; and 13 cattle.

*Manufactures.*—Cunningham in the course of his researches respecting Macduff's Cross, says, "And pitie it were, that so old and famous a monument in this our kingdom should be so closlie dormant in a poor country village." Surely the antiquary forgot the compliment he had just paid, in giving to Newburgh the honour of conferring upon the whole county the denomination of the Kingdom of Fife. "No trader," it was remarked in the last Statistical Account, "no trader has as yet appeared in Newburgh, whose extensive transactions in commerce would entitle him to the name and character of a merchant; though perhaps the time is not far distant when many will be found here of that respectable description." That time has arrived; and Newburgh can now boast of a considerable number of spirited individuals who are engaged in extensive commercial speculations, and fully entitled, as others of their countrymen, to the honourable appellation of British merchants.

The principal branch of trade consists in the weaving of linens, termed by the workmen Dowlas sheeting, and for which a ready market is found in London, Leeds, and Manchester; also in the West Indies and South America, to both of which places it is exported directly by our merchants here. A few years ago, indivi-



duals employed in the trade, for the most part, wove their own yarn, and disposed of their webs to others of their own number, who again sold them at Perth, Dundee, Cupar, Auchtermuchty, and Glasgow, to persons who purchased them, either on their own account or upon commission for the English market. The trade is now limited to thirteen individuals, who not only employ all the weavers in Newburgh, but furnish work for considerable numbers in Cupar, Springfield, Pitlessie, Kettle, Markinch, Falkland, Freuchie, Dunshelt, Auchtermuchty, Strathmiglo, Abernethy, Aberargie, Kintillo, &c. The finest of the material wrought here does not exceed what are termed fourteen hundred linens, and from 1 yard to 3 yards wide. Each web of the former sort contains about 140 yards, and averages from L. 5, 10s. to L. 6 in price. The latter is sold at 3s. 6d. per yard.

The following are the particulars of the manufacturing trade of Newburgh for 1833:—In the single article of winding bobbins, there are employed, boys, 10; aged men, 3; women above fifty, 80; women below fifty, 249; total, 342. The number of looms employed in town, 564; webs manufactured, 23,600; spindles of yarn contained in do. 826,000; cost of these, including weaving and bleaching, L. 128,325.

Besides the manufacturing of linens, there is likewise a considerable trade in corn, carried on by the merchants of Newburgh. A weekly stock market was established in 1830, which, while it brings advantage to the town, must, from its local conveniences, operate greatly to the benefit of the surrounding country. Dealers from Kirkaldy and other places regularly frequent it; and, from the experience of its past operations, there can be little doubt of its permanent prosperity. Barley is the grain which is principally sought after; but wheat, oats, beans, and potatoes also find a ready sale. To the spirit and intelligence of John Burton, M. D. practitioner in Haddington, but then residing in Newburgh, the public owe a debt of gratitude for the establishment of this market, which has proved so beneficial to Newburgh, and the agricultural interests of an extensive district in the three counties of Fife, Kinross, and Perthshire.

Malting was at one period carried to a very considerable extent at Newburgh, but has for some time past been entirely discontinued.

*Navigation.*—This is by no means on a scale of proportionate magnitude to the advantages of the place. Only 10 vessels, from

60 to 150 tons burden, belong to individuals connected with Newburgh, and they are chiefly engaged in the coal trade. Two packets are regularly employed in conveying the raw material, used in the manufacturing of linens, from Dundee. The wood-yards are supplied from America, Norway, and Memel; and the cargoes are often brought here in vessels belonging to these countries. Notwithstanding, there is a considerable appearance both of real trade and stir at the shore of Newburgh,—as most of the potatoes from Kinross, Strathearn, and the surrounding district, are shipped at this port for the London market; while, on the other hand, the generality of vessels, bound for Perth, must often wait here the flow of the tide, and not a few of them unload part of their cargoes before they can, even with the tide, proceed farther up the river.

Upon the whole, the trade and commercial enterprise of Newburgh will bear a comparison with those of places of much larger dimensions, and of greater external decorations. Two branches, one of the Commercial and the other of the Central Bank of Scotland, lately established, attest its domestic prosperity; and a revenue from customs of a very considerable amount, annually conveyed to the Exchequer, demonstrates its importance in a national point of view. Its local advantages are many, and, from the rapidly increasing wealth of its spirited merchants, there can be little doubt, but that every succeeding year will witness an extension of its business.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—1. The post-office of Newburgh. A foot-runner conveys every morning at eight o'clock the mail-bags from the Bridge of Earn to this place, and leaves again at five o'clock P. M. to meet the evening mails at the same village. 2. The turnpike road between the county towns of Perth and Fife-shire passes through the town of Newburgh; and about a mile to the eastward, at the village of Glenburnie, a road has been lately opened through the Ochils to Auchtermuchty, and the lime and coal fields of Fife. 3. A stage-coach, from Perth to Kirkaldy, passes daily during the summer months, and in winter on the alternate days from the one place to the other. There are also throughout the whole season, except when the river is interrupted with ice, several steam-boats which ply daily between Perth and Dundee, all of which touch at the shore of Newburgh. A regular passage-boat sails between the Pow of Errol and this during the



periods of high water; but at all times of the tide boats at Newburgh can be hired to the opposite banks of the Tay.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There are two clergymen in the parish of Newburgh,—the ministers of the Established Church, and of the United Associate Synod, (formerly the Burgher Secession,)—besides several others, who, without taking the name of clergymen, teach and exhort under the denomination of Anabaptists, Methodists, and Independents. The attendance upon the three last denominations is very limited, and will not, upon any occasion, in either, exceed the number of twenty. The United Associate Synod congregation may approach to about a third of the whole inhabitants of the parish.\* The parish church is a new and elegant building, capable of containing 1000 hearers, and placed in the very centre of the town. With the exception of a few families on the estate of Pitcairly, the whole population lie within the easiest and most accessible distance. The sittings, for the most part, are either free or let out at a mere nominal price.

The Earl of Mansfield and Mr Hay of Mugdrum are vice-patrons of the parish. The stipend consists of 15 chalders, half meal and half barley, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. This is according to the decree of modification; but the full amount in the locality has not been realized, in consequence of a fall in the rent of the lands of Mugdrum immediately upon the last augmentation being granted. The glebe amounts to 4 Scotch acres, and the grass glebe to 10 do., both fields being of excellent quality.

*Education.*—There are four schools in the parish, including the parochial school taught by Mr Wilson, besides other three which are superintended by females. The average number of pupils attending the whole may be about 400. The usual branches of education are taught in them; and in the parochial school, Greek, Latin, and the higher branches of mathematics are taught in addition. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, and the amount of fees averages about L. 30. Besides the legal accommodations of a dwelling-house and garden, the schoolmaster has a glebe of nearly four Scotch acres of land, a bequest left many years ago, and a sum of L. 1, 15s. arising from feu-dues and altarage money. The people are in general alive to the

\* Precise ecclesiastical state of the parish, as just reported by the elders to the Church Extension Committee: Total population, 2868; belonging to the Establishment, 1656; communicants to do. 669; belonging to dissenters of all denominations, 1008; communicants to do. 414; belonging to no stated place of worship, 204.

benefits of education ; but it is impossible not to lament, that a more extended as well as combined form is not given to the educational system here, commensurate to the rising importance and growing wants of the parish and neighbourhood. A part of the town's funds would be most beneficially employed for such a purpose, and, considering the numbers who are sent to complete their education at other places, and the great expense thereby incurred, the rest, if judiciously gone about, might be raised by private subscription. Let us trust that our townsmen, who have been hitherto so much occupied in matters of political strife, will henceforth unite and vie with each other in this truly laudable and philanthropic object. A greater boon they could not confer than an extension of our academical institutions.

A private seminary for females has lately been opened under the superintendence of an experienced and accomplished female teacher, where, besides reading, writing, and needle-work, the more ornamental branches of education are likewise taught. The healthiness and beauty of the situation chosen by Miss Sime for her establishment cannot fail to attract the notice and ensure the countenance and support of the public.

There are two Sabbath schools taught in the parish, both of which are numerous attended, and attached to each there is a juvenile library.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—"The poor are maintained by the interest of accumulated sums of money, feu-duties of a superiority of lands purchased for their behoof, collections at the church door, and casualties." The interest of poors' money is L. 19, 17s. 4d., and the amount of annual collections about L. 78. There is, besides, a charitable female society, which distributes annually in clothing, fuel, &c. about L. 15. There are likewise four friendly societies, which are in a flourishing state, and which distribute from time to time considerable sums among their aged and diseased members. No assessment has yet been imposed, and while the manufacturing trade continues to furnish employment in the comparatively easy process of *winding* to all ages, and even the infirm, this hazardous experiment will not require to be made.

*Alehouses.*—In the town there are 25 licensed houses for the sale of ardent spirits and wines ; at the shore there are 4, and 2 in the country district. If the police arrangement, which requires every one of these houses to be shut at eleven o'clock on the Saturday evenings, was rigidly and impartially enforced, much of the evil



arising from these fertile sources of corruption would be lessened. With one or two well-trained public officers, the whole, in a place of this magnitude, could regularly and with facility be inspected, and the refractory punished according to law.

*Fuel.*—English and Scotch coal are solely used for this purpose, the former obtained at the rate of 7d. a bushel, and the latter at 4s. 6d. per boll of 40 stones. The English coal are conveyed by sea, chiefly from Newcastle and Sunderland; the Scotch are brought in coasting vessels from Dysart, Wemyss, and Alloa; considerable quantities are likewise conveyed in carts from Lochgelly, Balgonie, and Balbirnie. Newburgh lies on the northern limit of the great independent coal formation, no portion of it stretching beyond the Ochil range from the one extremity to the other. Many fanciful conjectures have, from time to time, been formed of the existence of this useful mineral in different localities in the basin of the Tay and the adjoining valley of the Earn, and expensive speculations have been actually engaged in. But the principles of geology are now too well established to admit, even of a doubt, in the mind of one acquainted with the science, of its non-existence in this quarter; and henceforth our proprietors of their otherwise highly gifted domains will be more profitably employed in devising means for facilitating its conveyance along the surface, than fruitlessly expending their money in making excavations for it beneath.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The agricultural district of the parish being of very limited extent, and the lands being all in the highest state of cultivation, little alteration has, for many years, taken place, or can be henceforth expected to take place, either in its population or amount of produce. The wealth, energy, and resources of the parish are concentrated in the town of Newburgh, and certainly, few places are more advantageously situated for an increase and extension of them all. Lying midway between Perth and Dundee, with the fertile district of the Carse of Gowrie on the north, a rich and well cultivated country on the east and west, the easiest means of access to the south, a good harbour and excellent shipping station in the immediate vicinity, together with an abundant supply of water from the adjoining high grounds, Newburgh seems to have been expressly destined by nature as a place of trade. It is admirably adapted for the purposes either of an outlet or depot in distributing the commerce of the surrounding country; and should the recommendations of the engineer be followed in the formation of a railway, it may be con-

fidently anticipated that, at no distant period, new branches of trade will be opened up, while those which have already been so successfully pursued will be greatly extended. While the population of Newburgh has been steadily increasing during the last fifty years, its wealth has been more than quadrupled since the commencement of the century. Both are still rapidly progressing, and from experience of the past, as well as speculations already forming, we have reason to conclude that the place will continue to progress in commercial enterprise and importance. One great and substantial evil felt here is that which arises from difference of opinion on public affairs. In places of greater extent, the shock is considerably mitigated, in consequence of the different classes, of varying shades and degrees of sentiment, through which it has to pass, thus constituting, as it were, an intermediate tribunal by which disagreements are insensibly reconciled and asperities softened down; but here, and perhaps in most places of similar dimensions, the collision is abrupt, and families remain estranged from each other, because of matters in which neither may be personally or even in the remotest degree concerned.

*April 1836.*

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## PARISH OF FERRY PORT-ON-CRAIG.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. W. NICOLSON, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE local situation of the town of Ferry Port-on-Craig naturally accounts for its name; it is on a rocky shore on the south bank of the Tay, where there is a regular passage, by means of boats, to the opposite shore at Broughty Ferry. Previously to the erection of a pier, the boats landed and took in passengers at the point of a *craig* or rock, where, by the aid of a timber platform laid between the *craig* and the boat, horses and cattle were also shipped,—so that this was literally a *ferry* whose *port* was *on a craig*.\*

\* Neither horses nor cattle, however, cross the river by this passage, since the erection of the steam-boat between Newport and Dundee, although it is expected that a similar mode of conveyance will ere long be adopted here.



*Topographical Appearances, Boundaries, &c.*—The craggy aspect of the shore where the town is situated has now almost disappeared, the rocks which stood between the houses and the water having been removed, and better accommodation afforded for boats and vessels; dwelling-houses also have been erected close upon the beach. The parish stretches along the south margin of the river, from its mouth, where it empties itself into the German Ocean, to about five miles up. Its breadth is variable, extending in some places to about a mile and a-half from the river, and in others to about half a mile. It is narrowest near the middle, where the village is situated, and widens towards the east and west. It is bounded on the south by the parishes of Forgan or St Fillans, and Leuchars. The eastern part of the parish is flat and low, but on the west it is high and rocky. From the village eastward to the mouth of the river, the shore is flat and in general sandy, and at low-water there is a large extent of sands left bare by the tide. On the west of the village the shore is rocky and irregular.

The atmosphere is here generally cool and salubrious, although the sea breeze to which this part of the country is exposed gives a sharpness to the air which is not felt in more inland districts. The proofs of a wholesome climate which this parish presents are early crops, and a healthy population.

Except the Tay, which, as has just been stated, constitutes the northern boundary, no river bounds or intersects the parish. There is, however, abundance of excellent water in the higher parts of the parish, issuing in springs from strata of hard whinstone. Hence water is generally obtained without difficulty, and most of the inhabitants are supplied with this valuable article upon their own premises. Among the whin rocks, there are considerable quantities of beautiful spar; and in some of the rocks by the river side blue and red pebble stones are plentiful.

This parish contains a considerable variety of soil. The eastern part, which is flat and sandy, contains in some places a light loam on a bed of sand, and in these places there are raised tolerably good crops of oats, barley, and rye, and also some wheat. There is also a very considerable extent of links, affording a slight pasturage for sheep and cattle, and supplying also a considerable quantity of rabbits. The profits arising from this latter source, however, are not so great as formerly, in consequence of the great reduction in the price of their skins, which some years ago sold at 8s. per dozen, but now (1835) seldom bring more than 3s. 6d. or 4s. In the west-

ern and higher part of the parish, the soil is generally a black loam founded upon whin rock, and produces excellent crops of all kinds of grain. Green crops of every kind are successfully cultivated, and of late years the farmers have raised great quantities of potatoes for the London market, which yield them a fair profit when sold at 9s. or 10s. per boll of 32 stones Dutch.

Flax, which in former times was produced in considerable quantities, and of good quality in the parish, seems now to be totally abandoned.

*Extent, &c.*—The whole extent of the parish, according to a survey taken in 1831, is 2598.314 imperial acres, exclusive of commons. There are only four farms, besides upwards of 100 acres let out in small portions to a number of individuals in the village, who keep cows and horses.

The cattle reared in the parish are a mixed breed, embracing the Fife, Angus, and Ayrshire kinds. There is also a considerable number of sheep, chiefly a cross breed between the Cheviot and Leicestershire kinds. The number of horses generally kept in the parish may be reckoned at about forty; and they are chiefly employed for agricultural purposes.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

It appears that this was erected into a separate parish by an act of King James VI. in the year 1606. It is supposed to have previously formed part of the parish of Leuchars, although it does not appear that there is any authentic record of this fact. There is, in the parish, a field which still retains the name of the chapel, in consequence, as is supposed, of there having been a chapel there previously to the separate erection of the parish. The estate of Scotsraig, which comprises the whole parish, was formerly the property of Archbishop Sharp of St Andrews. The principal farm was church land, and was at one time feued by authority of the Pope at the sum of L. 132, 18s. 8d. Scots money, and 4 bolls of pease. Tradition says that the feuar was a Mr Scott, of the family of Balwearie in Fife, who, to distinguish it from other places called Craig, prefixed his own name to it; hence Scotsraig, the name which the whole estate now bears. A portion of the Archbishop's room is still pointed out in a fragment of the old mansion-house, now forming part of the garden wall. The present house was built in 1807, and is a large and substantial building.

*Antiquities.*—The only interesting object of antiquity in the parish is the remains of an old building, usually denominated the



Castle. Of its original purpose and design, however, there is no certain account to be found. From the construction of the building itself, there is reason to believe that it was erected after the use of fire arms; and, probably, it may have been designed to constitute a protection against the entrance of any hostile force by the river, and for that purpose to act in concert with the Castle of Broughty on the opposite shore. On this point, however, we are left entirely to conjecture.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish in 1755 was	621
1796,	875
1801,	920
1811,	1164
1821,	1461
1831,	1680

Thus showing a gradual and pretty uniform increase during nearly a century. The increase may be accounted for partly from the encouragement given for feuing by the proprietor of Scotsraig, and partly from the circumstance of the average of births being greater than that of deaths, as appears from the following averages for the seven years preceding 1831.

Average of births for these seven years,	41
deaths,	27
marriages,	13

The principal part of the population is in the village, which, by the census of 1831, contained 1538, while there were in the other parts of the parish only 142. The number of families was 417, and the number of inhabited houses 311. The greater number of the houses are only one story in height, and contain two and sometimes three apartments. But there is also a number of two-story houses, generally containing four apartments, and sometimes the same number of families. The houses more recently built, however, are both more handsome and more commodious. On many of the feus taken within the last seven years, very handsome houses have been erected, and covered with blue slate, by which the appearance of the village has been greatly improved.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The agricultural state of the parish may be exhibited in round numbers as under :

Imperial acres in a state of cultivation,	1350
not cultivated, including roads,	1130
under wood,	114
	<hr/>
	2594

Besides the above, there are about 18 acres of undivided common,

lying in the immediate vicinity of the village, and to which all within the parish have a right for pasturage.

The wood generally planted is larch, until the last two years, when a considerable quantity of oak has been planted. The farms are generally let for a term of nineteen years, and the rents, being paid partly in victual, convertible at the fiars prices, are consequently variable. According to present prices, the whole parish will not yield an average of L. 1, 10s. per acre. There are upwards of 100 acres, however, in the immediate neighbourhood of the village, let out in small portions at much higher rents than the farms, and varying from L. 1, 10s. to L. 5 per acre. The common rate of wages for farm-servants is L. 10 to a married man, with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, a house, and a cow kept on the farm. Unmarried men receive from L. 9 to L. 10, with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal. Female servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 5. Day-labourers are paid at the rate of 1s. 6d. a-day in summer, and 1s. 4d. in winter.

With the exception of a few fields, the parish may be said to be wholly destitute of enclosures. The farm-buildings, however, are substantial; two of them of recent erection are very superior.

*Produce.*—There is considerable difficulty in ascertaining the average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, but the following may be taken as a pretty near approximation:

Produce of grain of all kinds, say	-	-	-	L. 3000	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, &c.	-	-	-	1000	0	0
Grass, including hay crop,	-	-	-	1300	0	0
Quarries,	-	-	-	20	0	0
Fisheries,	-	-	-	900	0	0
Yearly sale of rabbits, say	-	-	-	140	0	0
Miscellaneous,	-	-	-	50	0	0
				L. 6410	0	0

The real rent of the parish is about L. 2500.

In the item of grass in the above statement, the calculation is made according to the estimated value of pasturage during the season for a cow or full-grown ox. The calculation concerning the grain has reference chiefly to the prices of 1833 and 1834.

*Manufactures.*—The principal manufacture is hand-loom weaving, in which there is a very considerable number, both of men and women, employed. They receive their work chiefly from manufacturers in Dundee. Several of the inhabitants are employed at this work in winter, who go to other employments in summer. An industrious hand-loom weaver can now earn from 10s. to 12s. a-week.

*Fishing.*—There is a considerable salmon-fishing belonging to



the estate of Scotsraig, extending the whole length of the parish, and now let at an yearly rent of L. 600. Formerly, when stake-nets were used, this fishing station sometimes brought upwards of L. 2000 of yearly rent. The only mode of fishing now in use is by net and coble.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Fairs, &c.*—There is a sort of fair held in the village annually upon the first Tuesday of June, old style. In former times it was well attended, but is now reduced to a few hucksters' *stands*, and is of no importance to the place. The nearest market-town of any consequence within the county is Cupar, the county town, (eleven miles distant,) where several well frequented fairs are held during the year. The principal intercourse, however, is with Dundee, to which there is easy access, either by the steam-boat on the Newport passage, or by an excellent sailing vessel which leaves Ferry Port-on-Craig for Dundee, and returns every lawful day, carrying goods and passengers.

*Means of Communication.*—The communication with this parish has been greatly improved by the new and beautiful line of road between the village and Newport, a distance of about three miles. This road was made in 1830, almost at the sole expense of Robert Dalgleish, Esq. at that time sole proprietor of the parish, and may be regarded as one of the most valuable improvements to the place which has been accomplished for many years. There are two piers at the ferry, at the largest of which vessels land with coal and other cargoes, and where grain, potatoes, and other kinds of goods are shipped for London and other ports. The smaller pier is the landing place for the passage-boats.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is a neat and substantial building. It was rebuilt in 1825, and contains from 800 to 900 persons. It is most conveniently situated for the parishioners, being in the village, where by far the greater number of the people reside. The sacrament is dispensed twice a-year, in June and November, and the average number of communicants may be stated at 550. The people are most regular and exemplary in their attendance on divine ordinances, the church being generally well filled. There are sixteen sittings set apart for the poor; but there are many persons besides allowed to sit free.

There is a small Dissenting meeting-house in the village, in connection with the United Secession, having about fifty members in the parish,—any others that belong to it coming from other parishes.

The manse was built in 1796, and is a very substantial house, and in good repair. The glebe consists of about seven acres arable, and four acres of foggage or grass glebe, Scotch measure. The stipend is the minimum.

*Poor.*—There is no assessment for the poor in this parish, that evil having hitherto been provided against by the liberality of the parishioners in their weekly collections at the church door, aided by the kind and judicious consideration of the proprietors of Scotsraig, who advance such sums from time to time as may be found necessary, along with the collections, to supply the regular disbursements. There are generally about 20 paupers on the roll, and they receive from 1s. to 2s. 6d. a week according to their circumstances. Extraordinary collections are made at the beginning of the year, and at the dispensation of the sacrament, on which occasions an extra allowance is made to the poor. The yearly amount of collections at the church may be L. 55: the proprietors' contributions L. 40. The laudable desire prevails to support themselves without parochial aid, as long as possible, and in some cases the kirk-session has found it expedient to offer aid to such as were known to be in need, before they had made any application for it. It is frequently found, too, that they who are backward in letting their wants be known, and manifest a reluctance to accept of help, are far more needy as well as far more deserving objects than they who are forward to seek relief.

*Education.*—Besides the parish school, there are two private schools, one of which is taught by a female, and is chiefly attended by girls. The salary of the parish schoolmaster is L. 30, with house and garden. Besides the ordinary branches of education taught at the parish school, navigation, French, and Latin, are taught. The teacher's school fees amount to L. 22 per annum, and his yearly emoluments from other sources may be about L. 12. There are always five bursars or free scholars at the parish school, whose education is provided for by the investment of a sum of money by the late William Dalgleish, Esq. of Scotsraig, the interest of which is paid to the schoolmaster. The heritor and the minister of the parish have the power of appointing to the benefit, which is restricted to boys. Every child admitted to this privilege enjoys it for five years, and the preference is always given to poor children, the benefit being expressly designed for such. The schools are all well attended, the people generally manifesting a laudable desire to have their children edu-



cated. Here, however, as well as in other parts of the country in these days, the want of a due attention to the spiritual interests of the young on the part of the parents, was seen and lamented ; and to remedy as far as possible the evil resulting from such neglect, several Sabbath evening schools have been instituted. These schools are conducted by elders of the Established church, and other benevolent individuals, who gratuitously give their time and labour to the important purpose of instructing the young in the truths of religion. In winter there are about 200 children attending these schools. There is a library in connection with them, composed of small religious books, which are kept in constant circulation among the children. The funds for the support of this library arise from collections made in the parish church, where an evening sermon is occasionally preached for that purpose, and on which occasions the children all attend with their teachers.

*Libraries.*—A subscription library for the use of the parish was instituted in 1829. Each subscriber pays 2s. of entry-money, and thereafter 2s. annually, or 6d. quarterly, and on these easy terms he enjoys the use of a valuable collection of religious and literary productions.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank has just been instituted (January 1836) in the village, but has not yet existed sufficiently long to justify any expression of opinion as to its success.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In taking a general view of the state of the parish, and contrasting it with what appears to have been its condition at the time of the last Statistical Account, little occurs as worthy of remark. It has of course partaken, in common with other places, in the general advancement and improvement in the affairs of human life. Agriculture seems to have undergone considerable improvement, and almost every part of the parish is now under cultivation, which can be expected to repay the labour. There is nothing in which we seem to be left so far behind, amid the improvements of the age, as the state of the ferry passage, which has still to be effected in every state of the weather by small sailing boats. Scarcely any where else in the kingdom is this now the case on a passage of nearly two miles. A steam boat is therefore much desiderated ; and it is hoped that, among the improvements so vigorously carrying on under the new proprietorship of Scotsraig, this will not be long wanting.

*March 1836.*

## PARISH OF KINGSBARNES.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE WRIGHT, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish does not appear, from our earliest records, which go back to the time of its establishment, to have undergone any change. It may fairly be supposed to have originated from the intimate connection which is known to have existed between the ancient Royal family of Scotland when resident at Falkland and this part of the country. About 800 acres of the richest land of the parish were originally their private property. It is held of the Crown in feu, and pays to the Exchequer a specified amount of grain and money. The place is shown, and the form of a moat is still discernible immediately above the sea-beach, and about half a mile from the village, where what was called the Castle of Kingsbarns once stood. The remains of its foundation, composed of large and massy stones, regularly laid, were a few years ago removed by the present tenant. As a royal or baronial residence the site is certainly small; but if it be viewed as the place where the above feu, chiefly in grain, was deposited until removed for the use of the royal household at Falkland,—in fact, as the granary or barn of the King,—then the size is suitable, and the name of the parish is fairly derived, and readily explained. Its castellated form was essential when the maurading incursions of the Scandinavian nations, in these days of rapine and violence, are borne in mind.

*Extent—Boundaries.*—The parish forms, of course with many inequalities of line, a square of nearly 4 English miles. It is distant six and a-half miles from St Andrews, and three from Crail. It is bounded by the former parish on the north, and by the latter on the south; by the German Ocean on the east; and by the parish of St Leonards on the west.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There is no ground of great elevation within the parish. From the west, its highest range, to the east,



its lowest, it gradually slopes down to the sea. It consists of two ranges of land, upon the lower of which the village of Kingsbarns stands, and the greater population reside. The shore is low and rocky, presenting, unless at Randerstone, no prominent headlands, but possessing a long line of rugged front (with occasional sandy recesses) sufficient to repel the long waste of waves which roll in from the German Ocean. It is fortunate in possessing so stern a barrier of rock, as the swell, which a continuance of easterly gales brings in from the main sea, is most tremendous. Still, for many years past, the sea has been making encroachments upon the land, which, indeed, from its light shelly composition, would seem to have been the residue of former tides. The recesses above referred to form excellent places of deposit for the sea-ware, which is carefully collected and carted off by the farmer, and applied to the fields. Of late years, much less has come than formerly. Some ascribe the change to the immense amount of stone removed from the shore, for building dikes and drains. This practice, continued time out of mind, has tended to lower the surface,—to present fewer points of seizure, if I may use the expression, to the weed, and fewer eddies to the waves.

The parish on its sea line possesses neither prominence nor indentation of form deserving particular notice. It lies between the Friths of Forth and Tay, and immediately to the north of what is called the East Neuk, the easternmost point of land of what was called in the olden time the Kingdom of Fife. This position renders the temperature of the atmosphere less liable to intense cold.

In former times, the excess of moisture in this parish was attended with injurious consequences to the health of the inhabitants of the village. From its situation being directly below the rising ground, and in the course through which much of the superficial and drained waters flowed down to the sea, it became the seat of agues and fevers, and was certain to receive the visitation of every epidemic complaint raging in the country. Within these ten years, much has been done to remedy its unfortunate position. A *cast* from the sea has been brought up; the open ditches and drains in and around covered in; the streets properly levelled and metalled; many of the old and uncomfortable houses taken down; new ones with enlarged accommodation within, and neat flower-plots in front, erected; and, from being one of the dirtiest and most unwholesome places of residence, it now can bear fair comparison with most of its neighbours. It is

singular that a disease similar to cholera in the suddenness of its attack and the destructive rapidity of its course, appears from the register of burials to have existed exactly a century ago in the parish. What the population then was is unknown, but the deaths for the year 1733 were 58, while the average of the six succeeding years  $21\frac{4}{6}$ . Tradition states that it was confined to this village; that the disease commenced with an excruciating pain in the head; that chiefly grown up persons, young and robust, as well as old and feeble, were attacked; and that in a few hours death ensued. No name is given to the disease; but that it was considered malignant, appears evident from this, that many were buried the same day they died, and none remained unburied over the next day.

*Mineralogy.*—Lime and freestone, with occasional boulders of granite, are the prevailing kinds of rock, both on the sea shore and in the upper lands. Coal also appears to exist largely underneath the greater part of the parish; since both among the rocks at the sea, as well as on the sides of the burns on the high grounds, seams here and there appear. From the vestiges of workings on the lands at and immediately above the shore, the coal, in so far as tow and buckets and levels go, would appear to have been wrought. Where it peeps out, it is at times quarried by the poor people; of course it is small and brushy. By proper application it might become available to the public, since it is most likely to be a continuation of the same strata which have for a century past been successfully wrought on the high grounds to the westward. But from the vast amount of under water in the ground, the working would require considerable power, and consequently a great outlay.

Lime is burnt at the shore by the proprietor of Cambo, and his tenants, for agricultural and architectural purposes. As, however, no land quarry is opened, and the rock used is washed every tide by the sea, and no proper selection of stone is made, the produce is variable both in colour and quality. Its adhesive power is uncommonly great; and were the smallest pains bestowed in tracing the rock back into the land, there cannot be a doubt that lime of excellent properties might be obtained.

There is a great want of freestone rock in the upper part of the parish. This has proved a serious obstruction to forming enclosures, and draining the land; the rock at the shore, which is the chief quarry, is at too great a distance, and causes so much loss of time and expense, that the tenants are deterred from carrying into effect many an improvement. Tile-draining is on that account beginning



to be resorted to. Some ironstone is also found amongst the rocks at the shore, imbedded in their laminæ, or rolled in by the tide. A person has a lease of it from the different proprietors; he employs a few hands in digging and collecting it, and usually ships it off to Newcastle, whence he brings English coal for sale.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Kingsbarns was disjoined from the parish of Crail by an act of the Commission of Teinds in 1631. Whether any chapel for the administration of religious ordinances previously existed, is unknown. In the parish register we find it recorded, that, in 1630, a contribution for the benefit of the poor was made,—which seems to have been paid by all classes of the people, and at successive times, as could be afforded. But as the date is exactly the year preceding the disjunction of the parishes, it seems highly probable that the contribution was commenced and conducted with the view of establishing a separate poors' fund, and forms no evidence that there was any church here previously. The parish records are wonderfully entire, running up with little interruption to the earliest period of its independent existence, though not entering with any minuteness into the improvements which have been effected upon the conditions of the people and the habits of society.

*Land-owners.*—The landed proprietors, and the amount of their valued rents, stand thus:—Sir David Erskine of Cambo, L. 3010, 3s. 4d. Scots; David Hay Balfour, Esq. of Randerstone, L. 998, 13s. 4d.; David Monypenny, Esq. of Pitmilly, L. 916; George Cheape, Esq. of Kippo, L. 881, 3s. 7d.; David Lindsay, Esq. of Lochton, L. 216, 16s. 5d.; General Graham Stirling, L. 171; John Bell, Esq. of Kilduncan, L. 159, 10s.; total, L. 6353, 6s. 8d. Scots.

*Antiquities.*—There are no antiquities in the parish of any consequence. In levelling and improving the braes on the sea shore, numerous stone coffins, rudely constructed of coarse flags, and containing human bones, have been found. In one instance only, on the occasion of lowering a small height on the road to St Andrews, the action of fire had been applied, and the bones were found calcined and reduced to fragments, and placed in a hole of very small dimensions, carefully flagged. They are usually considered as the remains of the Scandinavian freebooters, who in ancient times made frequent descents upon the eastern coast of Scotland,—though they are not of the great size traditionally assigned to the men of these days.

## III.—POPULATION.

About a century ago the number of poor on the roll was seven. If these bore the same proportion to the population as the regular poor do now, the number must have been doubled. But, from the change of habits in the people, and the gradual abolition of the high feelings of independence once so prevalent, this mode of judging cannot be correct. My predecessor, Mr Beatson, in his report states, that “at the time of Dr Webster’s report, the numbers were 871. From the last state of the roll the numbers amount to 807, of whom 467 reside in the village, and the remaining 340 inhabit the country part of the parish. For 30 years the annual averages have been 16 deaths, 22 baptisms, and 6 marriages.” When the present incumbent took up his list of the population in 1811 the amount was 942,—629 in the village, and 313 in the country. In 1830 it was 1013,—581 in the former, 432 in the latter. The census of 1831, which included all labourers within the bounds of each parish at the time, gives 1023,—593 in the village, and 430 in the country. The proportion of males to females in both places is rather singular. In the village the former are to the latter as 249 to 344, while in the country they are as 214 to 216. The cause of the excess of females in the village arises from the circumstance, that in the country there is seldom attached to the farm-steadings more houses than answer for the farm-servants and their families; hence widows with children, and single women, seek a dwelling in the former. The general and progressive increase of the population is owing to the great improvement during the last fifty years in the science of agriculture, and to the extra and steady employment which the enclosing, draining, and extensive cultivation of waste lands has given. The average of births during the last seven years has been  $29\frac{1}{4}$ , of deaths 14, and of marriages  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

One Baronet, and a retired Judge of the Court of Session reside upon their estates.

During the last three years there have been 3 illegitimate births in the parish.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The inhabitants are rather remarkable for height. When the local militia were embodied, a greater number of men in the grenadier company came from this parish than from any other in the eastern district of Fife.

Much improvement in the condition and comforts of the people has of late years taken place. An inclination to render their per-



sons more neat, their houses more cleanly, and their fore-grounds and gardens more ornamented, is prevalent. The vast expenditure of money during the late war in the country, and the high price given for manufactures and labour, introduced a taste for better living and greater accommodation. The benefits of this change, though for many years past the value of wages and the return for all produce have greatly fallen, still continue. Almost every family of the labouring classes keeps a sow; and its flesh, along with potatoes, which in general are abundant and cheap, and fish caught off the shore in summer, and herrings usually obtained in the same quarter, and salted in the neighbouring towns, with occasionally meat from the butcher,—give an abundance of wholesome and nourishing food. Their habits are in general quiet and orderly. They are attentive to the education of their children, and regular in attendance upon public worship.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—As the agricultural interest is by far the most important in this parish, the following details may be submitted:

The number of acres within its bounds are 3057, 1 rood, 25 falls Scots measure; of these there are under the plough 2898 acres, 2 roods; under wood 150 acres, 1 rood, 25 falls; and unarable 8 acres, 2 roods; of the latter, two might be improved; and the remainder consists of old quarries and rocky ground on the sea shore. The wood consists of forest trees with firs as rearers, and small portions of shrubbery and evergreens round the mansions of the resident heritors.

The arable land is divided into 18 farms, and a few pendicle acres at the village. These farms, from the quality of the soil, may be divided into two classes,—the first embracing 9 farms in the lower part of the parish, and having more or less connection with the sea shore, and having right to the ware, limestone, &c. upon it: and the latter, consisting of 9 farms on the higher grounds, but having, with the exception of one, no claim whatever to the advantages of the sea shore. The former, with the small pendicle acres, contains 1390 arable acres, and therefore average nearly  $154\frac{1}{2}$  acres each, the largest farm containing 294 acres, and the smallest 40. The latter contains 1508 acres, and averages are about  $167\frac{1}{2}$  acres each; the largest being 386 acres, and the smallest 92.

The quality of the soil in the first of these two classes of farms is much superior to that in the second. In order, therefore, to give

a distinct report upon this part of the subject, it will be necessary for me to consider them separately.

1st, The soil of the nine lower farms consists of two kinds,—a light and sandy but active soil, along the whole range of land directly above the sea shore, unless perhaps toward the eastern end of the parish, where it is stronger,—and immediately above that, the ground is in general a deep black loam, in some parts tending to clay, and admirably adapted for close and continued corn-cropping. In this quarter of the country, during fully the last half century, the alternate system of husbandry has been ably followed. Under it, the first kind of soil now referred to is usually employed in raising turnips and potatoes, upon which a considerable amount of cattle are annually fed off. Upon the latter, these crops are more rarely taken, fallow, beans, and grass being interposed between the white crops. The cultivation of the strong lands generally runs in the sixth course,—fallow, wheat, beans, barley, grass, and oats,—though of late the pressure from low prices upon the farmer has compelled a shorter course of cropping and a more frequent introduction of wheat. Whether in nineteen years, the usual length of a lease, the general amount of production, and consequently of profit, be thereby increased, seems somewhat questionable. On the lighter soil, the course generally pursued is green crops, wheat or barley, grass for one or more years, and oats. This also is not seldom varied; and after ley, wheat or barley are occasionally taken. The want of pasture-grass on these farms is remedied by the farmers taking parks for their young stock in the higher parts of the country. In giving a rough estimate of the produce of this part of the parish in corn, cattle, and potatoes brought to market, I give the average from 1827 to 1831, both included,—only I may premise that the crops were, from cold and wet seasons, more than usually short. Of the 1390 acres of which the first class of farms consist, 781 acres were upon an average during the above five years annually in crop, and in the following proportions: 246 in wheat; 139 in beans; 191 in barley; and 205 in oats. The return was  $7\frac{3}{4}$  bolls per acre; the most productive farms giving 10, the least productive giving  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls. This gives an amount of  $6042\frac{1}{2}$  bolls; and, reserving somewhat more than 2 bolls per acre for seed, servants' meal, household consumption, and horse-keep, there remains for market 4188 bolls of grain. Potatoes also are raised to a considerable extent for sale, besides the free use of them as daily food for the work-horses and



for fattening cattle. They are chiefly exported to London and Newcastle, sometimes by the grower and sometimes by the merchant. The amount annually disposed of may be 2000 bolls of 4 cwt. A due proportion of cattle are regularly fed off each winter. Eight of the farms turn out from the byre, one year with another, 90 head, weighing 36 stones each; and the other disposes of about 20 three-year-olds each spring. The rent of these farms is partly in money and partly in grain; with a maximum fixed; and the average of the whole is L. 3, 12s. 9d. per acre. A deduction was a few years ago granted upon the higher rented of them; but the very great and continued depression in the price of agricultural produce would intimate that a farther abatement is necessary.\*

2d, The upper division of the parish consists also of nine farms. The land is wholly arable, but, from the inferiority of the soil, a different rotation of cropping is pursued,—more land is retained in grass, and more is subjected to fallow. The soil in many places is strong and heavy, and in others a thin clay and muirish, lying in general upon a wet bottom, and containing much water. Green crops cannot be successfully cultivated to a great extent. Fallow more largely takes their place; and when the land is enclosed, which is generally the case, two or more years of pasture are included in the rotation of cropping. The amount under corn upon the average of years above stated is 838 acres, in the following proportions: 217 in wheat; 125 in pease and beans; 183 in barley; and 313 in oats. The produce per acre is 6 bolls; the highest farm producing 7 and the lowest 5 bolls. This gives a total produce of 5028 bolls, from which, deducting for seed, &c.  $2\frac{1}{2}$  bolls per acre, there remain to be brought to market 3136 bolls of grain. About 200 bolls of potatoes annually are sold; 35 head of cattle at 35 stone weight are fed off, and 28 sold from the straw-yard. The rent of these upper farms is upon an average L. 2 per acre; the highest being L. 2, 11s. and the lowest L. 1, 5s. The farms recently taken being more conformed to present prices, are considered as able to pay; while those under old leases are gradually reducing the capital of the tenants. The sheep husbandry is nowhere pursued. Only a few are kept by the resident gentlemen for their private use.

*Produce.*—From this statement the following brief analysis of the

\* Since 1832, many of the money rents have been changed into a certain amount of corn, in wheat, barley, and oats, payable by the fiars of the county. In proof of this, the actual rent of the parish, which in that year was L. 8290, is this year only L. 6780.

amount of produce from the parish may be given : Under the plough are 2898 acres ; of these each year are sown 1619 acres. The amount of bolls produced is 11,070 $\frac{1}{2}$ . Deducting seed, &c. there are brought to market 7324 bolls of grain. Of potatoes 2200 bolls are sold. Of cattle 125 head, at 35 stone each, are fattened for the butcher, and 48 sold for the grass, from the straw-yard annually. The grain is computed in the old measure, and the cattle in Dutch weight.

Seventy-four ploughmen hired by the year, and eleven boys are employed on those eighteen farms. Much of the wheat and beans on the low lands are sown in drills, which, along with the potato and turnip, give a vast deal of employment to young women in hoeing. About 113 are so occupied. In fact, from the time of planting potatoes, which usually begins at the end of April, until harvest be completed, they are seldom off the fields. Their payment when so employed is 8d. per day, without meat ; and when lifting potatoes, 1s. with their dinner. A good labourer with the spade obtains from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and from 1s. to 1s. 2d. in winter. The harvest wages are, for men, L. 2, with some potato and lint ground, and supper meal, and for women, L. 1, 13s. with the above bounties. Draining is usually contracted for by the rood of six yards at 9d. when three feet deep, and more or less of course according to depth. Mechanics, such as masons, smiths, and wrights, get 2s. to 2s. 6d. per day. The smith generally contracts with the farmer to do the work by the pair of horses, at the cost of from L. 2, 5s. to L. 3, including their shoeing, the keeping up of the plough and harrows, forks, grapes, &c. and every thing pertaining to the working but the cart.

The breed of cattle usually preferred is the Fife. The Teeswater were introduced into the parish by the late Thomas Earl of Kellie. His successor is returning to the old Fife breed. Though the former can be fed off at three years old at a much greater size, still, as they must be high fed from birth, and require very fine grass, the farmers find it more profitable to retain the country breed.

The steadings are almost all good in themselves, and ample in accommodation. The nobleman mentioned above was in this respect most liberal to his tenantry, and set an example which was generally followed in the neighbourhood. Of the eighteen farmsteadings in the parish three only can be considered as materially defective.



The great employment of the people is agricultural. In the former Statistical Account of this parish, the writer mentions, in regard to this class, that there are about twenty-four extensive farmers whose families amount to 192 souls. Since that time many of the smaller farms have disappeared,—better divisions of the land have been made,—and handsomer and more complete steadings built.

*Fishing.*—There is no regular fishing establishment connected with the parish, however well situated for it. The want of a proper harbour, and the violent surge to which the shore is exposed in easterly gales, render the employment of capital in that way very unprofitable. During spring and summer, one or two boats carry on the lobster and crab and skate and hand-line fishing, steadily; and occasionally in the summer evenings, the weavers and farm-servants go off to the fishing; but these latter never make it an article of trade, and are contented with thereby obtaining a change of wholesome food for their families. A number of young persons, from their proximity to the sea, are induced to pursue that line of life. Few go into the army. Many, after serving an apprenticeship in Dundee or Anstruther, as carpenters, go on board of merchant vessels in that capacity; some go annually to the whale fishing in the north seas, and when at home during winter practise their trade of weavers, shoemakers, &c.

*Manufacture.*—The only branch of manufacture carried on in the parish is weaving. The kinds of cloth beside linen (for home use) which are wrought are called Osnaburgh and Dowlas. There are thirty-one looms in constant use. The number of yards woven is about 100,000 each year. In the present depressed state of that trade, I am informed that, if preparing the yarn be done by the family, the average amount of wages, during last winter, (1831,) is only rated at 1s. per day; while, if done by other hands, it does not exceed 10d. Weavers (1836) are now making 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. and good hands 1s. 8d. per day.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is one village in the parish. St Andrews and Anstruther are the two market-towns, where the grain produce is chiefly sold; the former distant six and a-half, and the latter seven miles. Corn and potatoes are shipped at both these places, and also at Crail, the post-town, three miles distant to the south-east.

The great coast-road of the county passes from south to north for four miles through the lower part of the parish, and through

the centre of the village. A private runner from Crail conveys letters in the morning to St Andrews, and on his return in the afternoon takes up letters for the south.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the village, and is conveniently placed for the population. It was built in 1631, and repaired, enlarged, and commodiously fitted up chiefly with pews for 650 sitters, at an expense of nearly L. 800, in 1811. The manse was built in 1765, and enlarged in 1815, and also in 1826. Yet with all the repairs and additions which the heritors have kindly granted, it never can be made, from its original defective construction, a commodious residence.\* The ground attached to the living, beside the usual allowance of garden and barn-yard, is, 1. the glebe, amounting to four acres Scots measure; and 2. the foggage, equal to five and a-half acres, both of which have been drained and enclosed by the present incumbent. The former, from its situation, close by the village, would let at L. 4 per acre, and the latter, at the distance of an English mile, might give L. 2, 10s. per acre. The stipend, exclusive of element money, is 14 chalders and 5 bolls, one-half meal and the other half barley; determined by a decision of the Court of Session in 1812. About as much free teinds remains, and one farm, belonging to the College of St Andrews, is unvalued. The patronage is in possession of the noble family of Crawford.

There is no dissenting meeting-house in the parish. Five families, amounting to 21 souls, are of the Burgher persuasion; and attend upon a place of worship in Crail. The heads of the family of Cambo are Episcopalians; but their presence is very frequent in the parish church.

*Education.*—There is one parochial and one private school. The schoolmaster of the former has the full salary allowed by law, L. 34, 4s. 5d. and a good dwelling-house. His garden is deficient in the legal amount by 350 square yards. The average of fees for the last seven years amount to L. 45 per annum. The branches of education taught are, Greek, Latin, French, English grammar, geography, writing, book-keeping, arithmetic, navigation, and land-surveying. In the private school, reading, writing, and arithmetic are taught. The income of the teacher is stated at L. 31. He has

\* The manse was, in 1835, condemned by the heritors, taken down and rebuilt. The garden wall and offices are all undergoing the same process this year. The whole, by an excamb of ground with Sir David Erskine, is removed from its former confined and disagreeable situation in the centre of the village, and placed in juxtaposition with the glebe. By the time all is finished it will have cost fully L. 1000.



no advantage either of a free school, or of any fund by subscription. He rates the annual expense of each scholar at 12s. 6d. and 3s. 9d. for books, &c. A Sunday evening school has been established in the village for about twelve years. The number of young persons attending varies considerably, according to the season of the year. The average number may be stated at 80, of which the larger proportion is females. The parish is well provided with the means of education.

*Library.*—There is a library in the village, formed by subscription and donations in 1822. It is maintained by the payment of a small annual sum, and is used chiefly by the farmers in the parish and neighbourhood. The number of volumes belonging to it is 500, with occasional additions by purchase, and with two of the periodical magazines, regularly presented by Lady Erskine.

*Savings' Bank.*—A savings' bank was established in the parish in 1819. For the first ten years, it slowly and steadily advanced, until, in April 1829, its deposits reached the maximum, L. 448. Since that time, they have gradually decreased until the present time, when they stand at L. 321. The management of the bank is vested in the minister, and the chief depositors are the labouring classes.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor are divided into two classes, those who receive regularly, and those who are only occasionally supplied; the former are paid on every fourth Monday; the latter receive allowances once in the half year, or more frequently, if any unusual donations be made, or accidental calamity befalls them. The payments made to the regular poor are from 1s. to 2s. per week. A double allowance is usually given at the return of the new year, and of the sacrament. Coal, a scarce and dear article, is bestowed at the former of these times, and is chiefly provided by the benevolence of Sir David Erskine and Mr Monypenny; when a cart load, consisting of 2 bolls or 120 stones is given to one, or divided among two or three families, according to their need. None of them are allowed to beg. Since the succession of the former gentleman to the estate of Cambo, a system of most judicious benevolence has been conducted by Lady Erskine. In cases of sickness, medical aid is provided at the expense of the session.

Taking the average of the last seven years as the basis of the following calculations, the regular poor amount to  $14\frac{1}{4}$  persons, and the occasional to 12, and the expenditure upon both has

been L. 64, 10s. 9d., and upon the education of poor children L. 6, 0s. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The collections have been L. 24, 19s. 3d., and legacies and donations, L. 20, 3s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. annually. This last source of revenue has been, during that time, much higher than ordinary, from bequests paid at the decease of three members of the noble family of Kellie, proprietors of Cambo, and by donations made at the succession of the present proprietor. There is a fund to the extent of L. 350 deposited on bond in the hands of the principal heritor. This sum, so far as can be traced, seems to have originated in the liberality of former generations, and to have been preserved by the rigid management of successive kirk-sessions. An annual sum is also derived from the rents of a portion of the seats allowed, by the heritors, at the repairing of the church in 1811, to be erected by the kirk-session, and of some other seats not required by them for the accommodation of themselves and tenantry. This affords L. 9, 18s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per annum. During the above period of years, two assessments in the form of contributions have been granted by the heritors, amounting to L. 63, 11s. 5d. The small number of resident heritors, the reluctance to make voluntary payments by those non-resident, the depression of the value of all agricultural produce for many years past, and the diminished resources of the labouring classes, have materially tended to reduce the usual means for the support of the poor. The high and independent character of the Scottish peasantry is certainly breaking down in this part of the country. The other charges on the parochial funds for session-clerk, precentor, kirk-treasurer, presbytery-clerk, beadle, mortcloth keeper, and incidental expenses, are, on the average of the above years, L. 16, 2s. 3d. So that the total income from all sources during the above period has been L. 85, 0s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d., and expenditure, L. 85, 5s. 4d.

*Fairs.*—Two annual fairs are held in the village in July and October. In the olden time it was customary to lay in at the latter a provision of butcher meat for the winter consumption, which was called the *Mart*. At that time it was numerously attended by drovers with sheep and black-cattle. Now fresh meat may be had regularly once a-week in the village, and at all times may be obtained from St Andrews and Crail. The fairs have consequently dwindled down into the sale of a few household articles of crockery, &c.

*Alehouses.*—There are 5 licensed alehouses in the parish.

*Fuel.*—The chief article of fuel is coal. The present distance



from any pit is about ten miles. That at Largo ward is inaccessible by the muir road during winter; and from Ely the expense of tolls greatly increases the value. Land coal, in fact, is only attained by the farmers and their servants having the cartage free of expense. The general supply is by sea, brought in during summer, and delivered at the shore. A small quantity of English coal is also brought in from Newcastle. The larger quantity of the article used comes down the Frith from Charleston, &c. Dysart Coal is one of the heaviest articles of family consumption in this quarter. The summer price of the smaller kind, called *chews*, is from 5s. to 6s. per boll of 60 stones, and of great coal from 6s. to 7s. In winter the price is heightened considerably. Were the road which passes through the parish from east to west, properly made through the Kingsmuir to the coal districts, the distance and conveyance would be much reduced. There is happily at present a prospect of the coal on the Kingsmuir itself being wrought. Were this the case, I know not anything that would more essentially contribute to the comfort of the lower orders of the people.

*Revised April 1836.*

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## PARISH OF KING'S KETTLE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. PETER BARCLAY, D. D. MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—IN the times of Episcopacy, as appears from old *charters*, the name of this parish was Losreskor Lathrisk.\* The origin of the name is uncertain. In old writings, it is called Catul or Katel.

The low grounds upon the Eden, a small stream which bounds the parish on the north, are supposed to have been the King's cattle-walk, or pasture ground,—where also is the King's goose-dub. And about half a century ago, there was near the village, on the land of

\* The church then stood at Lathrisk, near the west end of the parish, and had as appendages two other places of worship, one at Chapel Katel, about the centre of the parish, another at Clatto, in the east end of the parish. About the year 1636, the parish church, with the manse and glebe, was removed and brought to the village of Kettle, and from that time the village seems to have given name to the parish.

Blackdikes, the ruin of a hut, which was reported to have been the house of the King's herdsman. It is perfectly known, that a considerable part of the lands of the parish was once the property of the Crown, by the forfeiture of the Duke of Albany, whose palace was at Falkland; and was afterwards feued out in runrig, in eight divisions, at the rents then paid. These divisions are fully recognized at this day, and the rents are still paid to the King under the name of Crown rents. In 1695, the runrig division, with the unanimous consent of the parties concerned, was put an end to, and each proprietor's land was placed by itself.

*Boundaries—Extent.*—Kettle is bounded by Falkland on the west; by Markinch, Kennoway, and Scoonie or Leven, on the south; by Ceres and Cults on the east; and by Collessie and Auchtermuchty on the north. The parish is of an irregular oblong figure, about 3 miles broad where broadest, but sharpening very much to the east and west ends, and about 8 miles in length. It may contain something more than 9 square miles, or 5100 Scots, or 6375 imperial acres. The great thoroughfare road between the Friths of Tay and Forth, by Cupar, runs four miles through the parish. The road from New Inn by Melville gate and Letham to Dundee, runs about one mile through the parish.

*Soil, &c.*—The most productive parts of the parish are those in the course of that strath, which extends from near Kinross to the Guard Bridge, near St Andrews,—in which the surface is generally level and water-fed. Yet even here the soil is extremely variable—sometimes there are excellent carse lands,—but at a small distance from these are extensive beds of sand, with a mossy surface, on a strong stiff clay,—or again a light and friable mould. On the rising grounds which lie in the direction of the parish, from the Lomond hills, eastward and backward toward the south, there are excellent soils, sometimes strong and clayey, sometimes light and friable. But the climate, as the ground rises, is less genial. This is manifested by the crops being slower in growth, and coming later to maturity. Even the highest parts of the parish are covered with verdure, and afford, in summer, excellent pasture for all sorts of cattle. It may be remarked, that for upwards of fifty years (excepting 1826) the third or fourth day of May has never failed to give us rain more or less; and the crops and grass, especially on light and sandy soils, feel sadly the effects, if it be not then abundant.

The climate, for the most part, is dry and healthy, and not subject to any local diseases. The ague is reported to have prevailed



much on the lower parts of the parish, while it was swampy and often covered with stagnant water, from the overflowings of the Eden. But for the last fifty or sixty years, this disease has wholly disappeared, owing probably to the many drains which have been made in this and the neighbouring parishes. The lower people are now peculiarly liable to dropsical swellings in their limbs, owing, perhaps, to the poverty of their living.

*Hydrography.*—The Eden, the stream of which in summer is scarcely sufficient to turn a corn-mill, abounds with excellent red and white trout, and some pike and eels. As the course of the Eden is down a low strath, bordered with a range of hills on both sides at no great distance, as it has very little fall in its course, and was extremely winding and serpentine, it frequently overflowed its banks, and rendered the crops in its haughs very precarious. To remedy this evil, a plan was projected by Mr Cunninghame, the then proprietor of Lathrisk, about the year 1768, for making a cut in nearly a straight line, so deep and so wide as to confine the water, and at the same time give it all the declivity of which the nature of the ground would admit. But as the heritors on the different sides of the stream could not agree, this plan could not be executed in his time. About the year 1783, the late Mr Johnstone having purchased the estate of Lathrisk, and become proprietor of both sides of the stream for upwards of two miles, executed the cut on an enlarged scale. A spacious canal was opened for the water along his property, about 15 feet wide at bottom, and secured on the sides by banks rising backwards to not less than 70 feet in width at top, and fenced behind with hedges and hedge-rows, which both confined the water and ornamented the property; and had the cut been carried on from where he ended, in the same capacious manner, and humouring the declivity of the ground, it would in all probability have answered the purpose intended,—except where, by the rising of the Eden, the reflux of water up ditches, and up the channels of the streamlets which entered the Eden with very little declivity, caused a very temporary and scanty inundation over their banks. But it was otherwise: some heritors next to him did nothing. Hence in floods the water is dammed back at that part, and overspreads the whole meadows or corn lands around. And the heritors farther down who entered into the idea could not at once collect the scattered waters into one channel; and, moreover, by accommodating the direction of the stream to the convenience of the different heritors with

whose properties it interfered on both sides, they lost the advantage of the natural declivity about three-quarters of a mile. In 1829, the grounds about Kettle were four times deeply flooded. The late Mr Johnstone also built an elegant house upon the estate; and following up or completing the plans of his predecessor, (Mr Cunninghame,) subdivided most of his farms with ditch and hedge, adorned them with belts and clumps of planting, and set the example to this part of Fife, of building commodious farm-houses and steadings to his tenants; all which gave a vivacity and beauty to this part of the country.

*Mineralogy.*—The rocks in the parish belong, chiefly, to the coal formation. On various parts of Burnturk, there are quarries of sandstone (freestone.) On one of these, on the north-east foot of Bauden Hill, when the stratum of covering earth is removed, we observe on the surface of the rock, numerous appearances of vegetable remains apparently branches of trees of various diameters, curiously ramified and interwoven, as of trees fallen, crushed, and petrified. A large piece of petrified wood and a petrified horn were also found. We have no marble or slate in the parish, but some sandstone (freestone) of indifferent quality. We have also some quarries of the finest trap whinstone, which are capable of being finely dressed and squared, and serve for the building of houses and dikes to any extent. Of these, one quarry, instead of lying in horizontal beds, rises perpendicularly in the form of a vein or dike, and presents in the face of the quarry the appearance of numberless five-sided columns, which, on being blown down with gunpowder, produce naturally excellent gate pillars, from five to seven feet long, without requiring a single stroke of the hammer to dress them. Another of these quarries, apparently of trap tuffa, is famed for producing excellent soles for ovens, by reason of its peculiar quality, and resisting the action of fire. Limestone of the best quality is also abundant in the parish. The quarry at Forthar, belonging to General Balfour of Balbirnie, was analyzed sometime ago, and found to contain 98 parts in 100 of pure lime. It is wrought by the proprietor; and in tiring, quarrying, mining, breaking, and filling the draw and sowkilns, &c. gives employment through the whole year to a great number of men. The coals with which the lime is burnt are brought from the proprietor's own coal pits at Balbirnie, and the lime is sold at 3s. the Linlithgow boll. Besides what is consumed in the neighbourhood, great quantities are driven to Newburgh port for Dundee, the Carse of Gowrie, and other parts of Perthshire,—which also furnishes employment for a number of



carters. Coals also used to be dug up in Burnturk; but these are now mostly given up, excepting a blind coal, which is used for burning lime, and is mostly carted off to Pitlessie lime-hills. Some ironstone also is found in the parish.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—Under this head, the writer has only to specify what he described in his former Account. 1. The two eminences on Bauden Hill and Downfield Hill, supposed to be the ruins of circumvallations. 2. The eight barrows, three of which are known by the names of Pundler's Know and Lowrie's Know, in Fortharground, and Lackerstone, in Kettle ground. There is a tradition about the second, that when dissensions arose between families in different parts of the country, they met there to decide their contention by arms, and those who fell were buried in the tumulus. 3. The family of Seatons, who occupied the lands of Clatto, in the east end of the parish, and of whose robberies and murders there are many traditional stories. The assailants are said to have rushed out from Clatto Den on the heedless passengers, and dragged them into the cavern.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish by the census of 1831, is 2071, of which there are in the villages of

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	
Kettle,	244	283	
Of Holekettle Burnside,	103	99	
Of Bankton Park,	65	81	
Of Balmalcom,	57	58	
Of Coalton,	32	39	
	<hr/> 495	<hr/> 530	Total, 1025

The average number of births for seven years, 52, and the average of deaths, 41.

Number of families in the parish,	462
chiefly employed in agriculture,	81
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	229

*Heritors and Farmers.*—We have 16 heritors whose yearly rents are above L. 50 a-year; of whom only six reside in the parish. The farmers are comfortably accommodated with excellent houses, covered with slate and rigged with lead, and have good accommodations for their cattle, dairy, dung-courts, and shades for their carts, and other farm gear, and are all most respectable in their line.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This is properly a corn parish, and does not afford much pasture, and there is only one flock of sheep. In the parish are, 3 farms of 4 ploughs; 10 of 3 ploughs; 12 of 2 ploughs; in all 76 ploughs; and about 10 pendicles, (*prædiola*,)—some of

these pendicles holding of the proprietors, and some of the larger farmers. The occupiers of these pendicles not having sufficient work, find employment for their spare time in drawing coals, lime, or metals for the roads.

*Commons.*—These have all been divided and subjected to the plough, or planted with the various kinds of trees for which they were considered to be best adapted. And they now, instead of presenting to the eye a naked and barren landscape, enliven with verdure our higher grounds. At Dovan, Milldeans, Burnturk Common, Chapel, Forthar, and Lathrisk, there may be above 200 acres under plantations; but most of these are hid from passengers on the great thoroughfare road, by the rising of the ground which intervenes.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of land is from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2, 15s. per acre on the low grounds; and from 13s. to L. 1, 12s. on the higher.

*Wages.*—The servants are generally, one man to each pair of horses,—an *orow* man, as he is called, for looking after the cattle and for incidental work,—and two women; and their wages are, for married men, from L. 8 to L. 10 in money, with a house and yard;  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls oatmeal; 1 Scotch pint of sweet milk daily; their coals driven; and about 24 falls of ground for potatoes. If any of them have a cow, or the milk of a cow, they have from L. 3 to L. 4 less of money. For unmarried men, from L. 8, 10s. to L. 10, 10s. and their victuals in the house; or if they live in a *bothie*, or out-house, they have  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls oatmeal in the year, and 1 Scotch pint of sweet milk daily. The wages of women servants are from L. 5 to L. 6 a-year. Most of the greater farmers have cottagers, whom they call out for hire when their work requires additional hands; and they and others are supplied by any other hands they want, from the villages. The wages of these day-labourers are, for men, 1s. 4d., to 1s. 6d. per day; for women, 8d., without victuals.

*Husbandry.*—There is, as is said above, very little ground let for pasture in the parish, except some parks at Beddies' Craigs, which, when let for a season, cost from 12s. to 18s. per acre. The other pasture is in the course of rotation, and is all eat up by the farm stock. Hence the stock in summer must always be measured by the provision for it, unless grass parks in the neighbourhood be taken for them, which is often done for the rearing up of young stock. But in autumn, a great number of cattle is bought in to be fed on turnip and potatoes during winter, and sold off to fleshers when fattened. The usual rotation is, after well-dunged potatoes, to sow down



with grass seeds among wheat, and after turnip among barley; to take one crop of hay, and leave it next year for pasture; then break it up again for oats. Thus a five years' rotation, three in crop and two in grass, is generally observed. But sometimes, with the stronger lands of clay or loam, a summer fallow is substituted for the green crop; but by far the greater part is sown with potatoes, which have for some years been cultivated to a great extent, not only for home consumption, but for the London market; and sometimes, if a half dunging can be had for the lands, barley is sown after wheat, in soils that will bear it.

More than one-half of the parish is divided and enclosed with stone and lime dikes along the road sides, and elsewhere with dry-stone dikes, or ditch and hedge. Draining is also carried on to a great extent, of late; for which nature, in many places, has given great facility by the sloping of the ground. The quantities of manure made now in the farmers' straw yards would completely astonish a farmer, forty or fifty years ago. The parish produces much more grain, (and generally of the best quality,) than is sufficient for its own consumption, and, of course, sends the overplus to market. On the whole, farming seems to be as far advanced here, both in system and practice, the soil and climate considered, as anywhere else in Scotland. At an average, there may be yearly in summer, fallow, potatoes, and in drilled peas and beans, 340 acres; in turnip, 180 do.; in wheat, 250 do.; in barley, 360 do.; in oats, 900 do.

*Produce.*—The average value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L. 7656
Potatoes, 13000 bolls at 5s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3250
Turnips, 180 Scotch acres at L. 6, 10s.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1170
Hay, 800 Scotch acres at L. 5.	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4000
Pasture, 1100 acres at L. 2,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2200
Gardens,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	200
Thinnings of Plantations,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	300
Mines:										
Burnturk coal,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	L. 70
Do. freestone quarry,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Forthar lime quarries, being the product of 12000 bolls lime-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	
shells, sold at 3s. per boll Linlithgow measure,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1800
Produce of building and drain stones, and lime redd sold,	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	20
										<hr/>
										1900
										<hr/>
										L. 20,676

*Manufactures.*—There are 378 hand-loom in the parish, nine-tenths of which are employed in weaving a kind of linen called Dow-las, and one-tenth in weaving window-blinds. The average value of linen per loom in the year is about L. 51; and the average wages

in the week is about 4s. 6d. A moderately steady hand will make 5s. 8d. a-week, and the value of his work will be L. 72; a few of the best hands will receive considerably more. Within these three or four years, a good deal of work has come into the parish from Newburgh, a port on the Frith of Tay; and from other places, a good deal of work also goes out from this to other parishes, but not so much as comes into it; and the increase of work within the last 120 years is reckoned about 30 per cent. Many young women as well as men employ themselves on the loom. Elder women and widows are generally employed in winding pirns; but for these there is a great want of employment since the lint-wheel failed them. We have smiths, carpenters, wrights, and masons, sufficient for the parish, and for helping our neighbours, and one medical gentleman.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The village of Kettle is situated on the flat of Stratheden, rather low, on the south side of the Eden, the floods of which reach to the skirts of the village. Its appendages, Burnside and Bankton Park, which are entirely new feu-buildings, lie, the former a little to the south-west, the latter a little to the north-west of the village. Balmalcom village lies about half-a mile to the south-east, and Coalton of Burnturk about a mile south-east of Balmalcom, on the higher grounds.

*Provisions and Market.*—From the vicinity of the metropolis, and a great many coast towns, provisions are commonly kept at the Edinburgh prices. At present we have neither flesher, baker, brewer, writer, stipendiary constable, nor exciseman in the parish. With butcher-meat we are supplied from Cupar, six miles distant, or from Freuchie, in the parish of Falkland, a mile and a-half distant. Carts every day come from Cupar with excellent bread. Beer is brought from Freuchie or Lethem, in the parish of Monimail.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church has been rebuilt within these two years; it is of Gothic architecture, with an elegant tower and clock. Including the purchase of the ground for a new site and other contingencies, it cost about L. 3000, and holds nearly 1200 sitters. The manse and garden are in good order. A good and substantial manse was built in 1792, and a substantial wall was put round the garden in 1827. The living by the last decret of modification in 1823 is 15 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, at the highest fiar prices; but in Fife we have only one fiar for each kind of grain; and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion



elements. The glebe, though of legal measure, is one of the poorest, and would not let to a tenant for L. 3 a-year.

The Dissenters in the parish amount to about one-third of the whole population.

*Education.*—The school and schoolmaster's house have been lately rebuilt. They are capacious and airy buildings, and finished in a superior style. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, and, with the session-clerkship and school fees, which are very low, may amount to between L. 60 and L. 70 a year. Every one without exception learns to read.

*Poor.*—The poor on the roll for monthly supply are 30 in number at present,—besides others who need occasional supplies. Our collections at the church are only about L. 20 or L. 21 a-year, and the heritors contribute about L. 100.

*Inns, &c.*—In the parish we have 10 houses licensed to retail exciseable spirits, &c.—5 along the thoroughfare road, 4 in the village of Kettle, and 1 in the Coalton of Burnturk.

*Fuel.*—We are mostly supplied with coal from Balbirnie, about four miles distant, at 1s. 3d. a load, counted 18 stone; but we have Balgonie, Dysart, and Clunie within our reach, at all which coal-hills the load is heavier, and the price less.

*March 1836.*

# PARISH OF LESLIE.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES NICOL, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—IN the former Statistical Account of this parish, it is stated that the original name of the parish was Fetkill; but that, when the Earls of Rothes, whose name is Leslie, became the proprietors, they gave their own name to their possessions here, and the whole parish came at last to be known by the same appellation. \*

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The extent of the parish may be between 4 and 5 miles in length, and from 3 to 4 in breadth. It is bounded on the west by Portmoak; on the north by Falkland; on the east by Markinch; on the south by Kinglassie,—the river Leven being the boundary between Leslie and Kinglassie. The figure of the parish is that of a bow, the Leven being the string of it.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The greater part of the parish is now good, and the eastern part most excellent arable land; the two most eastern farms, viz. Pitcairn and Cadam, having, for some years past, in general had the first sheaves of barley in Fife. The

\* It has been conjectured that the name is derived from the Gaelic words *Lis*, signifying a garden or enchanting spot, and *Leven*, the name of the river, hence *Lisleen*, Leslie. This derivation corresponds with the beautiful table-land on which the village is built, originally the scene of royal and noble games, and the resort of all that was royal and noble in Scotland, to enjoy those games in safety; hence the name still retained by many a contiguous field and croft, where each noble family erected their own pavilion,—such as Bin-ard-ri, pronounced Bingarbree, high station of the King. Every name of any standing in the parish is Gaelic, and many evidently connected with royalty, such as Strathendry is Strath-an-ri, the King's Park or Forest. Balquhonvie is Bal-quhom-ri, the King's Grass Town. Balsillie is Bal-shiellie, corn town. Ingri is Eglisi-an-ri, the King's Chapel. No vestige of this religious establishment now remains, except the name and the fount for baptism or holy water, now standing in the dike, on the north side of the road, immediately below the old farm steading, where formerly stood the cross, and still so called by the older natives, the cross of Ingri to this day. To shew that Leslie was a place of royal and noble resort, packmen were always found in great numbers, selling their wares under the protection of such assemblies. Hence Leslie became, and was till of late years, the head quarters of the Packman's Society, where an annual meeting was held, novices "Brothered, and taken into the fraternity, horse and foot races; the last remains of ancient games were played by the packmen, on horseback, in humble imitation of their ancient betters."



undulations of the land from the Lomond Hills down to the river Leven, and intersected by two streams, one flowing from the north to the south, the other smaller stream, the Cambie, from the west, both falling into the Leven, a short way below Leslie House—give a pleasing variety to the landscape. With very little exception the whole lands in the parish are arable. The fields are well divided either by hedges or substantial stone dikes. The woods of Leslie House are remarkably fine; indeed, it may be safely said, that no place in Scotland surpasses them, consisting of oak, beech, and ash, some of a very large growth. The admirer of rural variety will be entertained here with every circumstance of beauty, which he can expect from diversified nature, hill and valley, wood and water.

*Meteorology.*—Under this head, it may be only observed, that there has not been the shock of an earthquake within many hundred miles of this parish since the year 1815, but what was indicated by the waters of the Leven. On the 6th January of that year, the loch was heaved up in a peculiar manner. All the newspapers were carefully examined to see in what part of the country it had taken place; but no account appeared for many months till the ice broke up, and the first arrivals from Bergen, Norway, brought accounts of a shock that had taken place on that very day at Bergen. Meteoric stones have fallen in this neighbourhood.

The climate is particularly salubrious. The village stands on table-land, which rises from the Leven on the south; there is, therefore, a free ventilation, and the water carried off; so that, with the slightest attention paid to cleanliness, there cannot be a more healthy place. Certainly the most prevalent complaint is rheumatism among the old, which may be accounted for by the fact, that when bleaching was first introduced into this neighbourhood, the women stood in the cold water to wash the yarn. This is now obviated by the improved methods of carrying on the bleaching operations.

*Hydrography.*—The only river of note is the Leven, which is the southern boundary of the parish. It issues from Loch Leven, and, after a run of about twelve miles, falls into the sea at the town of Leven. The scenery is particularly beautiful as it passes through the policy of the Earl of Rothes. Although of so short a course, the water is particularly valuable, there being forty-three or forty-five public works upon it, the falls valued at L. 1106, 4s. The water being soft is well adapted to bleachfields.

*Mineralogy.*—There are in the parish quarries of trap or whinstone, but very hard, and the working of them expensive; although, since building has so much increased, it is wrought to a considerable extent. There are also some coal mines and quarries of limestone. The coal is in the eastmost part of the parish, but is not wrought to any great extent. The direction of the strata is from east to west.

Alluvial deposits covering whinstone, for the most part gravel and sand, to a great depth, run along the south side of the parish, —beginning at the west point at Auchmuir Bridge, and extending nearly the whole length. The village of Leslie stands upon a ridge of gravel and sand, rising about 100 feet above the bed of the river Leven. Many of the ridges of gravel and sand that are found on the south part of the parish do not seem to have been accumulated all at once; for in many of these there are alternate strata of very fine sand and brown loam. In a pit that was opened for sand for building the new house of Strathendry, there were found in the year 1826 some pieces of wood imbedded in the sand nearly twenty feet from the present surface, but in such a state of decomposition, that the species to which it belonged could not be recognized.

*Zoology.*—Before the erection of bleachfields, Leven was the best trouting stream in the county. Salmon were taken in the loch. Trouts of a very large size, and of the highest flavour, were taken in the carses. They were of the weight of 8, 10, 12, 14, and 16 lbs. each. A pike was rarely taken in one of the old turns of the river, which measured 4 feet 2 inches long, weighing 56 lbs. Avoirdupois. Eels used to be caught in great quantities in their passage from Loch Leven to the sea. Indeed, on this account, the lands of Strathendry, were before the Reformation, subject to an annual tax of some thousand eels to the Abbey of Inchcolm. The eel fry come up in millions in May and June, and when full-grown in the loch, marshes, &c. they run to the sea in autumn, especially about Michaelmas.

*Botany.*—The plantations of Leslie House are remarkably fine. The species that thrive best seem to be ash, elm, common beech, oak, and the silver-fir. The larch does not thrive so well; it grows freely for a time, but soon rots at the heart. On the estate of Strathendry, there is but very little old wood. The ash, elm, and sycamore, are the kinds that thrive best. The common larch also grows to a large size, and keeps free from heart rot. The beech avenue at Leslie House is well worthy of attention; the trees are



about 200 years old, several of them measuring 16 feet 8 inches, at 4 feet from the ground.\*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The village being a burgh of barony, holding under the Earls of Rothes, there are two bailies and sixteen councillors. The records go back for nearly 300 years; but there is nothing generally interesting in them.

The Earl of Rothes, Robert Douglas, Esq. of Strathendry, and General Balfour of Balbirnie, have many exact maps of their various properties in the parish; and by comparing these together, a very near approximation may be made of the extent of arable, pasture, and other land, and also of the number of acres under plantation.

*Ancient Documents—Pictures.*—In the depositories of the Earl of Rothes, there are a great number of letters and ancient documents, relating not only to the family history and affairs, but it is believed that many would be found highly interesting in a public point of view,—many of that noble family having acted a very conspicuous part in the history of their country. There is a very interesting account given of the fifth Earl of Rothes, in a work edited by James Nairne, Esq. W. S. as one of the members of the Bannatyne Club, entitled “a Relation of the Proceedings concerning the Affairs of the Kirk of Scotland. From August 1637 to July 1638, by John Earl of Rothes.” In Leslie House there are also several valuable pictures,—the fifth Earl and his Countess, by Jamieson of Aberdeen, styled the Scottish Vandyke; the Duke and Duchess of Rothes; the Duke and Duchess of Lauderdale; Princess of Modena; General John Earl of Rothes, by Sir Joshua Reynolds; Archbishop Tillotson, said to be an original; a portrait by Rembrandt of himself. There is, besides these, a large collection of family portraits. The tapestry in the house is very fine. 1. The story of Leander; 2. The history of the children of Israel’s journey through the wilderness; 3. The anointing of Saul, with several other pieces.

\* I may here take notice of the rooks who tenant these high trees. Their police is indeed very strict, and to watch their habits very entertaining, especially at the time of building their nests,—an instance of which has just come under my own notice. A pair fixed on a site in a high beech tree, and commenced building, they carried on their operations for some days with great assiduity, when one of them espying a very tempting rafter in a neighbour’s dwelling, which he seemed to think would do extremely well for his own, made an attempt to possess himself of it; but his neighbour being on the alert, he was for the time disappointed; when in the after part of the day, his neighbours left their nest, immediately the new comer laid hold on a large twig, and conveyed it in triumph to his own nest. In a short time the robbed pair returned, missed their property, assailed the delinquents, in which they were joined by the rest of the rookery, and literally demolished the nest, and severely punished them for their offence with their long bills.

*Family of Rothés.*—The most eminent characters connected with the parish have been of the family of Rothés. The Duke created by Charles II.; and the patent of the dukedom was only to male heirs. He had only one daughter, who married the Earl of Haddington. The Duke of Rothés was interred in the burying-place belonging to the family in the churchyard.

*Eminent Men.*—The celebrated Dr Pitcairn was a native of this parish. There is a farm which belonged to him, and still retains his name, and the ruins of the house in which he resided. The Douglasses of Strathendry are an old and respectable family in the county of Fife. The late Lord Reston, one of the Senators of the Court of Session, belonged to this family. The famous Adam Smith, author of the *Wealth of Nations*, was a cadet of the Douglas family. At one time, when residing at Strathendry, when a mere child, he was stolen by some gypsies; and it was not till after a considerable search had been made, that he was rescued from their hands. The Rev. Ebenezer Erskine, one of the fathers of the Secession church, was for a considerable time tutor or chaplain in the Rothés family.

*Land-owners.*—The chief landholders are, the Earl of Rothés, Robert Douglas, Esq. of Strathendry, and General Balfour of Balbirnie.

*Antiquities.*—Leslie Green is said to be the scene of the poem by King James, styled *Christ's Kirk on the Green*. Although this has not fully been authenticated, it yet seems very probable; and by Allan Ramsay the scene is said to be Leslie in Fife. It is well known that this was a favourite hunting-ground of the gay monarch. The games until very lately were kept up. On the green, there is still a stone called the bull-stone, considerably worn away on the sides, by the friction of the rope by which the unfortunate animals were made fast.

A fragment of a deer's horn, now in the possession of G. Inglis, was found some time ago in a bed of gravel, seven feet below the surface. It is nine and a-half inches round at the bottom. The whole horn was there, but so wasted, that no other part could be preserved. Brass or rather bell-metal swords have been found; Roman and Caledonian battle-axes, the latter of stone; flint arrow-heads of particular fine workmanship. The Hon. Mrs Douglas of Strathendry has some of these, and one head of a spear, which seems to have belonged to a standard.

There are several large stones erected on different eminences.



Lately one of these was taken up, and search made, when a large stone coffin with bones in it were discovered. To this day many of the knowes are distinguished by particular names, as the Gallant Knowe, &c. It is thought that, at the western part of the parish, is the place where the Caledonians disputed with the Romans the passage of the Leven, after defeating the ninth legion on the Orr. Here the Caledonians were defeated, and betook themselves to the Lomonds; and the Romans encamped on Balsillie heights, at the back of Leslie, where the mounds raised by the Romans are called the Balsillie Laws.

In 1335, the dam erected to drown the Scotch in Loch Leven Castle, was near the junction of this and Portmoak. The existence and locality of this dam have been proved, by the removal of its foundation, in the recent operations on the Leven.

About 1760, a stone coffin or urn was found near the Gallant Knowe, on Strathendry. In 1770, a tumulus, which stood near Pitcairn House, was opened; a stone chest was found, full of human bones, (in particular, several entire jaw bones,) standing east and west. At the east end, were found two urns of bluish clay, full of bones evidently calcined, and white as chalk.

*Modern Buildings.*—These are, 1st, Leslie House. The original house built by the Duke of Rothes, around a court like that of the Abbey of Holyrood House, with a gallery three feet longer than that in the Abbey, hung on one side with portraits of the connections of the Rothes family, and on the other side with those of the contemporaries and friends of the Duke,—was burnt to the ground on the 28th December 1763. The fourth of the square, forming the present house, was repaired by John Earl of Rothes in 1767. The house of Strathendry, belonging to R. Douglas, Esq. a very handsome building, in the style of the old English manor-house of Queen Elizabeth's time. There are also the church built in 1820; the manse in 1811; and several large flax spinning-mills, the first built about thirty years ago.

The materials very generally employed in building are whinstone for the walls, with freestone for the rybats and skews.

### III.—POPULATION.

When the returns were made to Dr Webster in 1755, the number of the inhabitants of this parish was said to amount to 1130.

In 1756, the total number was	-	-	1096
Of which in the town of Leslie,	-	732	
In the country part of parish,	-	364	

In 1769, the number of souls in the whole parish,	1165
In the town,	786
In the country,	379
In 1775, in the whole parish,	1189
In the town,	786
Males,	344
Females,	442
In the country,	403
Males,	215
Females,	188
In 1781, in the whole parish,	1211
In the town,	805
Males,	338
Females,	467
In the country,	406
Males,	202
Females,	204
In 1785, in the whole parish,	1212
In the town,	806
Males,	344
Females,	462
In the country,	406
Males,	211
Females,	195
In 1801,	1609
In 1811, in the whole parish,	1882
Males,	863
Females,	1019
In 1821, in the parish,	2200
Males,	1012
Females,	1188
In 1831, in the parish,	2749
Males,	1301
Females,	1448
In the town, males,	844
Females,	977
In the country, Males,	457
Females,	471

The cause of the great increase of the population has been—the improvements in the manufactures. Fifty years ago, there were but two bleachfields, and those on a very small scale, now there are four, employing, of themselves, upwards of 140 people.

The number of the population residing in the town of Leslie, 1821  
country, 928

2749

The yearly average of births, as near as can be ascertained, 47½, for the last seven years :

1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.
38		35	53	61	54	39
Of deaths for last seven years, 45½,						
1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.
55	43	55	39	40	46	41
Of marriages for last seven years, 18½,						
1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.
24	23	15	15	28	14	13

*Resident Land-owners.*—The only families of independent for-





burgh, where it meets with a ready sale, induces many an idle weaver to betake himself to this dangerous mode of getting subsistence.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

The number of imperial acres in this parish, which are cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	4324
Number of acres which have been cultivated, and are now in pasture,	965
Number of acres in undivided common,	27
Number of acres under wood,	350

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce, as nearly as can be ascertained, may be comprised as under :

Grain of all kinds,	-	-	-	L. 4500	0	0
Potatoes and turnips,	-	-	-	1600	0	0
Hay, meadow and cultivated,	-	-	-	600	0	0
Flax,	-	-	-	150	0	0
Pasture, rating at L. 2, 10s. for cow or full-grown ox,	-	-	-	600	0	0
Mines, lime, and quarries,	-	-	-	300	0	0
				<hr/>		
				L. 7750	0	0

*Manufactures.*—In the town of Leslie, weaving is carried on to a very considerable extent, there being 260 weavers in it. The most of the work is supplied from Glasgow,—being plain linen and cotton checks. A good weaver can only earn at the rate of 1s. per day, working twelve or fourteen hours. There are six flax mills in the parish, employing altogether upwards of 200 people. In these mills, they are employed twelve hours per day, or seventy-two hours in the week. The men's wages average from 15s. to 18s. per week, the hacklers from 11s. to L. 1; these in general work by the piece, so that it in a great measure depends on their own industry and sobriety. The wages of boys and girls, from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per week. These, when they have been in the mill for three or four years, are able to make full wages. Women's wages from 4s 6d. to 6s. 6d. per week. There are none employed in any of the mills, so far as can be discovered, under ten years of age.

There are likewise three bleachfields in the parish, the first employing 45 hands; the second 39; the third 56. The men's wages, 10s. per week; the womens, 5s.; beginners, 2s. to 3s. They are only at work for ten hours in the day. All these employments afford a very fair remuneration and support to those who are engaged in them.

The bleaching is perhaps one of the healthiest employments that can be engaged in. The workers in the mills have by no means



the robust appearance of the bleachers, although in general they enjoy tolerably good health. Great attention is now paid by the mill proprietors to the proper ventilation of the rooms in which the people work. This is attended with the happiest effects on their health.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets.*—The nearest market-town to Leslie is Kirkaldy, where an excellent weekly market is held on Saturday. This being a stock market, it is in general well attended, and has proved of great benefit to the farmers and grain-dealers. It is about nine miles from Leslie.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a daily penny post from Kirkaldy to Leslie. The town of Leslie is about a mile and a-half from the high road to Dundee through Cupar. Coaches from Edinburgh to Dundee, Cupar, Perth, &c. pass and repass on the road during the summer, six or eight times every day. There are no toll roads in the parish. The roads are kept up by the converted statute labour money, and are in excellent order. The bridges and fences are all kept in the very best manner.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the most convenient part of the parish, being nearly in the centre. It was built in the year 1820, and is in excellent repair. There are few country churches neater both in the exterior and interior. It is seated for 850, but with great ease contains 1000. The free sittings may contain 300. The manse was built in 1811, and is an excellent commodious house. The arable glebe is not quite four acres in extent; and but indifferent land. There are nearly two acres of foggage; and being close to the village, it lets rather high. The present rent drawn is L. 18 per annum, for the whole. The amount of stipend is L. 257, 8s. 6d., including allowance for communion elements. Number of families attending Established Church, 270, consisting of 1736 individuals.

There are three dissenting chapels in the parish, and one small congregation belonging to the Baptist connection. Two of the dissenting congregations belong to what is termed the United Associate Synod of the Secession Church; the other to the Associate Synod of Original Seceders. The ministers are paid by the proceeds of the seat rents. Two are supposed to have L. 110, the other L. 70, with free houses. Number of families in the parish attending the three dissenting congregations, 183, consisting of

1098 individuals. Number of families attending the Episcopals, 6, consisting of 15 individuals.

The service at the Established Church is in general very well attended. The dissenting places of worship, it is understood, are not over-crowded; but the writer has no access to know, the exact numbers of their congregations. The average number of communicants in the Established Church is 500.

*Education.*—There are altogether six schools in the parish; the parochial school, and five unendowed schools supported by school fees. In the parish school, Latin, Greek, and French, in addition to the other branches of education, are taught. The parish schoolmaster's salary is L. 34; and the amount of his fees may be L. 18; the emolument as session-clerk is L. 7 per annum. In this parish, the parochial teacher has not the legal accommodation; but an adequate allowance is made by the heritors. A mere English education is at the rate of 8s. per annum. For Latin and Greek from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 5s. All persons above six years of age in the parish can read.

*Libraries.*—There is a circulating library, supported by voluntary subscription, and managed by a committee of the subscribers; also a small library for the use of the children in the Sabbath schools.

*Poors' Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid for the last seven years is 35; of these, 11 have received at the rate of 1s. per week, and 10s. in the year to assist them to pay their house rent. The others have a monthly allowance according to their families. Perhaps the clearest way to show the expenses of the poor in the parish is to give the income and expenditure for one year, viz. 1832:

<i>Income.</i>			<i>Expenditure for the poor.</i>		
Collections.	-	L. 42 1 10	Parish poor,	-	L. 37 3 8
Mortcloth,	-	5 12 0	Hires and fees,	-	8 1 8
Interest,	-	28 16 0	Monthly disbursements,	-	82 10 3½
Cash,	-	55 9 11			
<hr/>			<hr/>		
L. 131 19 9			L. 127 15 7½		

The collections are made at the church door. The interest is from money belonging to the session lent out on heritable bonds. Under cash is included proclamation money; the sum of L. 2, 2s. given by the heritors in aid of the poors' funds; fines given by the Justices of the Peace to the parish from convicted poachers; and sums of money paid by other parishes who have paupers re-



siding in this. Under the denomination of parish poor and monthly distribution, come the weekly and monthly poor. The hires and fees are paid for session, presbytery, and synod clerks' fees, the officer's salary, and some clothes for the poor.

It is truly grievous to observe a growing disposition to take every advantage possible of the poor's funds, and to come upon the parish for aid; and children willing to free themselves from every burden when their parents advance in years.

*Fairs.*—There are two fairs in the parish,—the spring fair, held on the first Thursday of April, O. S. for milch cows, and the shew of horses that are to travel the county during the season. The spring fair is always well attended. The autumn one is held on the 10th of October. This of late years has fallen very much off. At this fair, lean stock are brought forward.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are 4 inns in the parish and about 16 alehouses. The inns are necessary, and at present remarkably well conducted. But with regard to the alehouses, or rather they should be called whisky shops, a great number of them are a perfect nuisance and the hot-beds of vice. It is no unusual thing for many of the whisky shops to entertain company till three or four o'clock on a Sabbath morning.

*Fuel.*—The fuel mostly made use of is coal. There is coal in the parish and immediate neighbourhood; but on account of its being dearer than at some short distance farther away, the most of the coal used in the houses and public works is driven about five miles and a-half. The price of the coal in the neighbourhood is 14d. per load of sixteen stones, while at a distance of five miles it is only 10d. the load of twenty-two stones.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

When the last account was given of the parish, the population was about 1212; at the present time it is 2749. At that time, there was not a spinning-mill in the parish, there are now six and three large bleachfields. At that time, there were six houses where ale was sold, but that not one person or family was supported by the profits of a public-house,—all having some other employment. Now there are 20 alehouses, and several of those who keep them have no other employment. The Sabbath with many of them is the busiest day,—not that they allow those who come to drink in the public-houses, but the liquor is taken to private houses, and the debauch carried on before wives, sons, and daughters. The effects of this are most demoralizing.

The manner of living has been very much altered within the last 40 years. In the year 1826, there was but one butcher, and he only killed a cow occasionally; now there are three who kill an ox, each, every week, and meet with a very ready sale. Wheaten bread is now much more generally used than oaten. This may be from the most of the women being occupied either in the mills, or winding the pirns for the weaver. They find their time better occupied in this than preparing food for the family, and so purchase at the shops.

The improvement that has taken place in the building of the houses is very decided. The walls are built of neat squared whin, and rybats, corners, skews, and chimney-tops of ashler work of free-stone, the roof either tile or slate, the interior of four apartments, very comfortably and substantially finished.

The greatest improvements made in the parish of late years are on the lands of Strathendry, by enclosing, planting, new roads, garden, and policy and house; and the improvements are still carrying on with great spirit, in improving and reclaiming wet land. One instance may be stated of the result of the landlord's improvements. A field that usually let for L. 15 or L. 20 per annum previous to being drained,—the first year that it was let in grass after the improvement, brought L. 85 per annum.

*Revised April 1836.*



## PARISH OF NEWBURN.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. THOMAS LAURIE, D.D., MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—This parish is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  English miles long, and nearly 2 broad; bounded on the east by Kilconquhar; on the west by Largo; by part of both these parishes on the north; and on the south by the sea.

*Name.*—Its ancient name was Drumeldry. At a period less remote, that of *Newburn* was assigned to it; probably from the circumstance of a small rivulet, which runs through a considerable part of the parish, having changed its course. Etymology, however, is often fanciful and fabulous.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The soil in general is fertile, and produces crops which might arrest the attention of the traveller who has visited more fortunate climes. His attention might also be attracted by the variegated scenery and extensive view. The landscape, consisting of rocks and woods and waters, and hills and dales, is such as a writer of romance would have delighted to fancy. The land is all in pasture along the whole extent of a flat sandy shore.

### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial register commences in 1628, and has been kept pretty regularly.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Charles Halket Craigie, Esq. of Dunbarnie, patron of the parish, who has greatly embellished his lands of Hall Hill; John Anstruther Thomson, Esq. of Charleton; James Wyld, Esq. of Gilston, an enterprising and spirited proprietor, who on his estate of Lathallan in this parish, has carried on the most judicious improvements. General Durham of Largo; Matthew Wilkie, Esq. of East Newburn; the heir of the late Sir John Leslie of Coates (Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Edinburgh, deservedly celebrated as a man of science through the civilized world); and James Buchan, Esq. of Balchrystie.

*Antiquities.*—If we may credit the tradition of a remote period, the Culdees had a church in this parish. King Malcolm granted to these priests Balchrystie, where the foundation-stones of an ancient edifice were dug up about half a century ago on the very spot where the church of the Culdees is supposed to have stood.

*Resident Land-owners.*—Four of the land-owners now mentioned have mansion-houses in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	-	412	
1811,	-	428	
1821,	-	398	
1831,	-	418	
Number of families in the parish,	.	.	86
chiefly employed in agriculture,	.	.	50
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	.	.	16

The decrease of the population is to be attributed chiefly to the union of farms, and to the demolition of cottages.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is,	.	.	12
of deaths,	.	.	5
of marriages,	.	.	4½
From a recent enumeration, it appears the number of persons under 15 years of age, is	.	.	168
		betwixt 15 and 30,	104
		30 and 50,	94
		50 and 70,	31
		upwards of 70	6
Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	.	.	9
women upwards of 45,	.	.	12
The average number of children in each family,	.	.	3½
The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is	.	.	8

*Character of the People.*—In their habits, the people are sober, regular, industrious; and, on the whole, enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts of society. Participating its advantages, they are in general contented with their situation and circumstances.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture.*—

Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, about,	.	.	2400
Never cultivated, and remaining in pasture,	.	.	350
Under wood, planted at different periods,	.	.	130

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land per acre in the parish is about L. 2, 10s. The general duration of leases is nineteen years. The state of farm-buildings and enclosures has been considerably improved. For several years past, salmon-fishing has been carried on in this and the contiguous parishes, but with no great success.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :



600 imperial acres	oats at L. 4, 16s.	L. 2880	0	0	
400	barley at L. 5, 4s.	2080	0	0	
200	wheat at L. 7, 4s.	1440	0	0	
					6400 0 0
300	potatoes at L. 7,	2100	0	0	
50	pease at L. 4, 16s.	240	0	0	
150	turnip at L. 5, 12s.	840	0	0	
					3180 0 0
200	hay, 36000 stone, at L. 2, 8s. per 100 stones,				864 0 0
500 arable imperial acres	pasture, equal to grazing for				
333 cattle,	at L. 1, 16s. per head,	599	8	0	
350 acres imperial unarable,	in pasture, at 6s.	105	0	0	
					704 8 0
<hr/> 2750 acres.					<hr/> L. 11,148 8 0

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The nearest market-towns are Colinsburgh and Largo, each of which is a very short distance from the east and west part of this parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, which is commodious and conveniently situated, was built in 1815. The heritors made very ample provision for the accommodation of the parishioners; consequently it is capable of containing more than the whole population. The manse was built in 1819. The extent of the arable glebe is 5 imperial acres, the grass glebe between 21 and 22. The value of both may be about L. 30 per annum. The amount of the stipend nearly L. 200. A process of augmentation has been depending before the Court of Teinds upwards of ten years. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is 180. There are now few Seceders of any description; and the sect of Independents which formerly flourished in this parish is gone, and the place where they were wont to assemble for public worship, is converted into a granary. The number of Seceding or Dissenting families in the parish is 3.

*Education.*—The branches of education taught at the parochial school are, English, Latin, Greek, writing, and arithmetic. In 1659, John Wood, Esq. of Orkie, destined that property for erecting a free grammar-school in this parish, and maintaining several poor scholars. The parochial schoolmaster educates and maintains these poor boys,—a liberal allowance being given him for that purpose by the patrons of Wood's Institution. The salary which he receives as a parochial schoolmaster is L. 29, 18s. 10d.; and his fees amount to about L. 14 per annum.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor persons receiving parochial aid is 12, and the average sum allotted to each per year is L. 1, 15s. 5d. The annual amount of contribu-

tions for their relief is L. 28, 16s. The proportion of this sum arising from church collections is L. 13, 3s. 8d.; and from other funds, L. 15, 12s. 4d. There is now little disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief. The days when application for such relief was reckoned degrading have long ago passed away.

*Fuel.*—The expense of fuel, which is coal, is the same as in the adjoining parishes.

*Alehouses.*—There is only one alehouse in this parish. The number of inns, in many other parishes, has, undoubtedly, a very pernicious effect on the morals of the people.

*April 1836.*

## PARISH OF DYSART.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID MURRAY, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—As far back as there are any records of this parish, Dysart has been called by its present name. It is said to be of Gaelic origin,—signifying *the Temple of the Most High*.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish is situated in the county of Fife, on the Frith of Forth, and is about twelve miles from Edinburgh. Its extreme length is about 4 miles, its greatest breadth about 3, and it is about 10 in circumference. Its form is irregular. It is bounded on the east by Markinch and Wemyss; on the west by Kirkaldy and part of Auchterderran; on the north by Kinglassie; and on the south by the Frith of Forth.

*Topographical Appearances, &c.*—The coast, which in general is bold and rocky, extends about two miles, and rises with a gradual ascent from the sea above a mile northward.

From its situation, Dysart is much exposed to winds from the east; still it is allowed to be one of the most healthy districts in the county. There are few or no diseases peculiar to it. Epidemics are not frequent. When they come, they prove most fatal in Path-head, not so much from the situation of the village, which stands high, being partly on a rocky and partly on a sandy foundation,—



but chiefly from the crowded state of the houses, and perhaps from want of sufficient attention to external cleanliness.

*Prognostics of the Weather.*—The following prognostics of the weather have been collected from individuals employed in the collieries and ironstone works, viz. that before a storm of wind, a sound not unlike that of a bagpipe or loud buzz of a bee comes from the metals in the coal pits, but that previous to a fall of rain, the sound is much more gentle; that about twenty-four hours before a storm of wind or rain, there is a black damp at the bottom of the ironstone pits, and through the waste; a damp so great, that a lamp will not burn; but that, before frost, the air below is clear, and that a candle or lamp will burn easily.

*Hydrography.*—There are two mineral springs in the parish, both of which are perennial, and have been in high repute. The one is to the eastward of the town. It is much frequented by strangers who come for sea-bathing, and has been found peculiarly beneficial to individuals labouring under stomach complaints. It proceeds from the iron mines which are every where in its immediate neighbourhood, and is strongly impregnated with iron. The stones on that part of the beach over which it runs into the sea are of the colour of yellow ochre. This spring is generally called the Medicine Well, and such is the estimation in which it was once held, that great quantities of the water were taken away, and sold not only in Fife, but in other adjacent counties. At different periods, it has been warmly recommended by gentlemen eminent in the medical profession. The other mineral spring is a little to the westward of the town. It is impregnated with vitriol; it has been long celebrated for curing soreness and weakness in the eyes, as well as sores on other parts of the body; and it is still the resort of strangers who have those kinds of complaints. Such is its repute, that it is frequently put in bottles and sent to a considerable distance, and numbers who have used it do not hesitate to bear testimony to the great benefit they have derived from it. It is generally called the Alum Well.

There are two small streams or rivulets which run through the parish, viz. the Oar, and the Lochty. The Oar, says Mr Chambers in his Gazetteer, originates in a rivulet in the parish of Dunfermline, which, along with others, once formed a small lake called Loch Oar, which is now drained, and the space converted into productive land. The rivulet pursues its way, and is joined by a stream from Loch Fittie, and further down by one from Loch Gellie. Thus

increased, the small river Oar continues an easterly course for some miles, till it joins the Leven in the parish of Markinch.

According to the same author, Lochty is a small stream rising in the parish of Kinglassie, which after flowing in an easterly course eight or nine miles, falls into the Oar, a short way above its junction with the Leven, which falls into the Frith of Forth.

*Mineralogy.*—The minerals of the parish consist of limestone, sandstone, coal, and ironstone. For a long time, the limestone was thought to be of inferior quality, and was not much used except by those in the immediate neighbourhood of the quarry. Now, however, it is in considerable demand. The sandstone, though not so beautiful in appearance as that which is found in an adjacent parish, is allowed to be of very superior quality. The claystone is certainly inferior to that which is brought from Angus-shire; still it is in great request, and is very generally used for pavement, hearths, &c. The coal mines which are on the estate of the Earl of Rosslyn consist of fourteen beds, most of which, however, are thin, and have been wrought out above the level of the sea. Three of the thickest of these beds are now working. The uppermost is five feet thick, the second eight feet, and the third five feet thick. At present, these beds are working about sixty or seventy fathoms below the surface. The metals cut through, in getting to the coal, are a sort of brownish stone, a clayey substance called by the workmen till; freestone; a hard bluish stone; and a hard coarse kind of coal mixed with stone. Dysart coal was amongst the first wrought in Scotland, operations having begun upwards of 350 years ago. It has a strong heat, but being rather slow in kindling, and leaving much ashes, is not so pleasant for rooms as some lighter coals. Like most of the minerals on the sea coast of this parish, it dips to the south-east one fathom in three near the shore; but is flatter as it goes north. It has been repeatedly on fire, the effects of which may still be traced by the calcined rocks from the harbour more than a mile up the country.

There are five beds of ironstone. They lie below the coal, and as they dip in the same direction, are wrought to the west of it, where they come nearer the surface. The ironstone when quarried is generally shipped for Carron; and it is understood that a ton of it yields about 12 cwt. of iron.

At different periods, numerous petrifications have been found in this parish;—and it may be noticed, that, for many years there were three petrified trees in the very heart of a rock, a little way to the westward of the town, the bark or skin of which resembled



pitch. Two of them were cut out of the rock lately, and carried away by some unknown person; and the other, which has been converted into a pedestal for a sun-dial, is to be seen in a garden in the town of Dysart.

*Woods.*—The plantations in this parish are not numerous. Altogether there are about 400 acres occupied by different kinds of trees, such as fir, oak, elm, &c.—300 acres of which belong to the Earl of Rosslyn, and contain some trees of considerable age.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Had the Burgh records, and other documents once in the possession of the Sinclair family been preserved, it is probable that they would have thrown much light upon the early history of Dysart. The former, however, are not preserved prior to 1623, and the latter were consumed in 1715,—when, by the negligence of a servant, Lord Sinclair's house was burnt to the ground. From the want of well authenticated sources of information, therefore, little can be said of the ancient state of Dysart. Indeed, there are no traces of its history prior to 874, when the Danes invaded Fife; and even then, little that can be depended upon is known. About that time, the Danish fleet, anchored off Dysart, landed their troops on the sea-coast: in marching into the interior of the country, they fought a battle in a field about a mile and a-half north of the town.

Dysart was originally a Burgh of Barony and held of Lord Sinclair, but in an act of Parliament dated 1506, ordaining the burghs on the shores of the Forth to expend their revenues on their walls and ports, Dysart is included; and from this it appears that it was then a Royal Burgh.

It has been ascertained that salt was made here as far back as the year 1450; that the salt works at that time were of great extent; that not only many of the principal towns in Scotland were supplied with salt from this port, but also that large quantities of it were then exported to Holland. About that time, too, and for nearly two or three centuries afterwards, the shipping interest was considerable; maritime and domestic commerce flourished exceedingly; malting and brewing were carried on to a great extent; and Dysart is allowed to have been one of the principal, if not the foremost trading town in the east of Fife. Prodigious quantities of merchandise, we are told, were regularly exposed to sale under the piazzas, which then pervaded the central street; and a square in the middle of the town is represented as having been in those days,

what with goods and what with the merchants who attended them, a sight of no ordinary splendour. As an illustration of the extensive commerce carried on in Dysart, and of the general importance which was attached to it as a commercial port, it may be mentioned, that, about the year 1640, when part of the eastern pier had either fallen or was in danger of falling, money to repair it was not only subscribed by merchants in the parish and neighbourhood, but collections for the same purpose were made at the church doors throughout the bounds of the presbytery at Dunfermline, and several other places in the county.

The quarrel of the Parliament of England with Charles I. which took place about the middle of the seventeenth century, and which extended to this part of the kingdom, suggests a few particulars connected with the history of Dysart which are not uninteresting. The inhabitants of the parish generally entered warmly into the views of the Parliament. Numbers of them, especially of the seamen "amongst whom were thirty skippers" volunteered into the army of the Covenanters, and were engaged in the memorable battles of Kilsyth, Philiphaugh, Tibbermoor, and Aberdeen. Public prayers were offered up for the success of the army, and public thanksgivings were returned for every advantage gained. The Solemn League and Covenant, which at this time was publicly sworn and subscribed at Kirkaldy, was also sworn and subscribed at Dysart; and if any were known to be indifferent in the national cause, they were immediately summoned before the kirk-session, and were dealt with as their case seemed to deserve. The people of Dysart did not abandon the cause they had espoused. Not only did they raise money to assist in carrying on the war, but furnished their proportion of horses, carts, and such other things as were necessary. The number of those belonging to the parish who were killed in the different battles already mentioned is stated to have been 98, and the number of those who were wounded is mentioned as considerable. In these circumstances, Dysart appears not to have been behind in its sympathies. Large contributions were made for the support of the wounded. Even the parish funds were devoted to the same purpose; and the surviving friends of those who had been disabled or slain had their exigencies supplied.

From the period which has thus come briefly under our review till the time of the union between the two kingdoms, there is (from the imperfect information contained in the records) a blank in the history, which it is not in our power to fill up, at least with facts



sufficiently authenticated. It is well known, however, that although the advantages which Scotland has derived from the union with England, have been long and deservedly acknowledged, it was at first lamented as an era of misfortune to the Scottish nation. The trade of many of the towns on the coast of Fife was greatly depressed by it, and in almost all of them it began to languish. Dysart was involved in the common fate. From this time its shipping, which had far exceeded that of any other port on the coast, fell rapidly into decay,—its general commerce declined,—its trade with the low countries in particular fell off gradually: even the coal and salt trade is small in comparison of what it once was; and Dysart by no means holds that rank in the scale of merchandise which it formerly did.\*

*Eminent Men.*—Among the eminent characters connected with the parish, the following may be mentioned. The first Earl of Dysart was son of the Rev. William Murray, minister of Dysart; and this nobleman is represented as having taken a conspicuous part in the counsels of Charles I.

In Calderwood's History of the Church of Scotland, the Rev. William Hog, who was deposed for non-conformity in 1619, is represented as a man of considerable eminence. The Bishop of St Andrews tried every method to gain him; sometimes he used threats, and at other times promises. On one occasion, he promised him the richest living in his gift if he would engage not to preach against Episcopacy, but finding that every effort was in vain, he passed sentence of deposition and even of banishment against him. It appears, however, that Mr Hog did not leave the kingdom, but was afterwards admitted minister of Kennoway, in which parish he died.

The Rev. Mungo Law was celebrated in his day, both as a preacher and as a man of talents. During his incumbency in the second charge of this parish, he had calls to various places. After a keen contest, he was chosen representative of the Presbytery of

\* Besides the records of the burgh, the kirk-session and the presbytery, from which the above information has been chiefly collected, there is a manuscript containing many curious facts respecting the antiquities of Dysart, of which Sir Walter Scott largely availed himself in his *Tales of a Grandfather*. It is the property of the Earl of Rosslyn. Another is alluded to in a small publication by Mr Charles Mackie, entitled *Historical Description of the Castle and Chapel of Roslin*. And about two years ago, Mr William Muir, parochial teacher in Dysart, collected, and at the request of a few friends, printed a small book containing many interesting facts respecting the parish, the church, and the school. This gentleman, who is a distinguished scholar and antiquarian, has in possession many curious coins, old receipts, and autographs of eminent persons in public life.

Kirkaldy, for the famous Assembly held in Glasgow in 1638. He was in Edinburgh Castle in 1650, when that fortress surrendered to Cromwell, and was one of the six ministers who protested against the surrender. He was, for some time after, a prisoner in England, and died in February 1660.

Robert Beatson was born at Dysart in 1742. He was educated with a view to the military profession. He obtained an ensigncy in 1756. He was at the taking of Martinique and Guadaloupe, and also served in the expedition to the coast of France, and during the American war. He is the author of many publications, among which are the following:—Political Index to the History of Great Britain and Ireland; Naval and Military Memoirs; Essay on the Comparative Advantages of Vertical and Horizontal Windmills; Chronological Register of both Houses of Parliament. The University of Aberdeen conferred upon him the degree of LL.D. He died at Edinburgh in 1818.

*Land-owners*—The principal land-owners in the parish are, the Earl of Rosslyn; the Earl of Rothes; Sir John Oswald of Dunnikier; and John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore.

*Parochial Registers*.—The parochial registers go so far back as 1619. They consist of about twenty volumes, and are in good order except one volume, which, being reckoned of importance, was, at the request of the session, lately transcribed by the session-clerk.

*Antiquities*.—Among the antiquities connected with Dysart, may be noticed the Red Rocks. These are nearly a mile eastward from the town. They bear the memorials of some dreadful convulsion, and are associated with the superstitions of former times. Tradition still points them out as the place where witches were burnt; and in different records, there are allusions to circumstances which render it more than probable that tradition is correct. The scenery all around is truly picturesque.

About half a mile to the westward of Dysart, is the Castle of Ravenscraig. It stands on a steep crag fronting the sea. It, with the adjoining lands, was given by James III. to William Sinclair, Earl of Orkney, when he resigned the title of Orkney; and ever since, has been the property of the family of Sinclair. Although in a ruinous state now, it was inhabited in Oliver Cromwell's time; indeed, it was the place where Lord Sinclair used to hold his court meetings; and the copy of a summons which his Lordship sent to the bailies of Dysart to appear before him is still preserved.

Near the Castle of Ravenscraig, three old trees stood together,



respecting which two traditions have been handed down. The one is, that three brothers of the Sinclair family had encountered each other there during the night ; that, mistaking each other for robbers, they fell by each others hands : that they were buried there ; and that the three trees were planted on their graves. The other is, that all the ground about Dysart had been originally under wood, and that when the wood was cleared away, these three trees were left as a memorial of its former state. It is questionable, however, whether the present trees are the same which tradition refers to. It is more than probable that, having fallen into decay, three others were planted in their room. The arms of the town of Dysart bear one tree ; and there has long been a proverb here, “ as old as the three trees of Dysart.”

About a mile north from the town, there is to be seen a large stone in the middle of a field, said to be a memorial of the battle fought by the Danes to which we have alluded. About half a mile north from this field, there is a farm called Carberry, where the Romans are said to have had a station, and where it is reported there was once a Roman camp, but no traces of it now remain.

Towards the south or lower part of the town of Dysart, there was anciently a small chapel, generally said to have been dedicated to St Dennis ; it is still called St Dennis’s Chapel : part of the original wall is standing ; but the building has long been used as a smithy.

Near to St Dennis’s Chapel, stands the old church of Dysart. Its remains bear all the signatures of its having been a splendid and venerable building. On one of the windows, the date 1570 has been observed. The steeple and porch, however, are evidently of more ancient workmanship, and the heavy stone roof of the latter, and two sculptured stones above the door, where the statue of some saint was probably once placed, refer the time of their erection to an earlier period than 1570. Nearly in the middle of the harbour, there is a high rock called the Fort. It is said to have been fortified by Oliver Cromwell, but no remains of any work are discernible on it. A receipt of Cromwell’s for money received was lately found amongst the town’s papers, and was in possession of the treasurer ; but, in consequence of being handed from one to another as a curiosity, it cannot now be found.

In the middle of the town of Dysart, stands the town-house. It was built in 1617, and contains the hall in which the magistrates and council assemble for conducting the ordinary affairs of the

burgh. Under the same roof, are the prison, the public weigh-house, the guard-house, and the black-hole. The whole is a plain building of strong ruble work, ornamented with a tower and spire. Part of it was occupied as a barrack-room by Cromwell's soldiers, and part of it as a magazine. Some of the soldiers, however, having entered the magazine with a lighted match, while in a state of intoxication, the whole building was almost reduced to a ruin, and was not rebuilt for several years afterwards.

*Mansion-house, &c.*—The only mansion-house now in the parish is that of the Earl of Rosslyn. It stands to the westward of the town of Dysart. It is a plain, but neat and commodious building, and commands a most beautiful view of the Forth, and of the picturesque scenery to the eastward of the town.

About five or six years ago, a mill for spinning flax was erected in the parish, which employs from eighty to an hundred individuals, most of whom are resident in the town. There is also a factory for stone-ware, which gives employment to nearly an hundred individuals. And there is a small factory for making ropes, at which three or four individuals have constant employment.

### III.—POPULATION.

From want of proper documents, little information can be given of the ancient state of the population of this parish. With the exception of Dunfermline, it has long been reckoned the most populous in the county. So far back, indeed, as the year 1619 or 1620, the inhabitants were so numerous, that one minister was not sufficient to do the work of the parish, and in consequence of this a second charge was established, and another minister introduced. According to Dr Webster's report, as quoted in the former Statistical Account, the number of souls in 1755 was 2367, and, as will be seen from the census of 1831, it is now upwards of 7000, exclusive of sailors, which amount to a few hundreds more. This great increase may be fairly traced to the different public works which have been established in the parish; to the facilities afforded to feuars; to the low rate of house-rents, and to the cheapness of fuel.

A more particular account of the different villages in the parish will afterwards be given; but in the meantime the following state of the population may be depended upon:

Town of Dysart,	1801
Pathhead, including Sinclair Town,	3330
Hawkey Muir or upper part of Sinclair Town,	434
Gallaton,	1053



Boreland, . . . . .	184
Country part of the parish, . . . . .	302
	<hr/>
	7104
Males, . . . . .	3291
Females, . . . . .	3813
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The only family of nobility residing occasionally in the parish is that of the Earl of Rosslyn : but there are many families of independent fortune, and five or six proprietors of land whose income from that source varies from L. 200 to L. 300 or L. 400 a year.

Dysart can boast of at least as many instances of longevity as any parish in Fife. There are a good many instances of people above eighty years of age, attending church regularly twice a day, not only in summer but during winter ; and not many months ago, a respectable old man in his ninety-fourth year, not only attended church but sat in session with his brethren, and his recollections were as distinct as at any period of his life.

The number of lunatics known to belong to the parish is only two, and they are supported in an asylum by the heritors. The number of fatuous persons does not exceed three or four at most.

The great body of the people are of industrious habits ; and although from the pressure of the times, they have not had it in their power to enjoy those comforts which they did a few years ago, it would be great injustice to conceal that they have borne their privations with more than ordinary patience—and that, upon the whole, they are contented and happy with their situation and circumstances. There are a great number of very intelligent individuals amongst them, and not a few who are distinguished both for religious principle and good moral practice.

At one time, smuggling prevailed to a very great extent, and the common impression was, that there was no harm in it. In many of the old houses, indeed, the smuggling holes where sea-faring people concealed tea, gin, and other articles, are still to be seen ; but this degrading and sinful practice is not now known to exist.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This parish contains 3054 Scotch acres, the whole of which are arable, and under the plough,—except about 400 acres of plantation ground, and a park here and there let for grazing cattle.

The trees belonging to the different plantations, as formerly mentioned, are fir, oak, elm, &c. all of which are regularly thinned and pruned, and the management of which is understood to be ex-

cellent. As farm rents are generally paid partly in grain, and partly in money, it is difficult to say precisely what is the actual rent of arable land. It varies from L. 1, 5s. to L. 6, 6s. The average of the whole, however, as nearly as can be calculated, is about L. 2, 5s. or L. 2, 6s. per acre.

*Rent of Land.*—The usual rent of grazing an ox or cow for the season is L. 4, and of grazing a ewe or full-grown sheep about 16s. yearly.

*Improvements.*—It is generally admitted that in no part of Fife-shire have greater improvements been made in agriculture than in this parish. Much land formerly waste has been reclaimed, drained, and embanked. The farm-buildings are generally in the highest order, being mostly all new within these few years. The system of husbandry pursued is that which has been most generally approved of by those qualified to judge. The general duration of leases is nineteen years; and although there is no public association in the parish for the encouragement of agriculture, great attention has been paid to the improvement of farm stock.

As the farms are all under the plough, there are few sheep in the parish. The breeds of cattle generally preferred are the Fife, Ayrshire, and Teeswater breeds. Great attention has also been paid to the rearing of horses.

The estates on which the above-mentioned improvements have chiefly taken place, are those belonging to Mr Fergus of Strathore and the Earl of Rosslyn. On these estates as well as throughout the parish, the leases are for nineteen years, except the burgh roods or acre land, which is let from year to year.

At the time the leases were granted, they were reckoned favourable to the tenants; but from the low prices of grain of late years, the tenants complain that they are unable to pay their stipulated rents.

Wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, hay, and turnip are raised in large quantities and in regular rotation; but the exact amount of raw produce raised in the parish could not easily be ascertained.

*Manufactures.*—About forty years ago, there were about 100 smiths employed in the manufacture of nails. It is said that about 12,000,000 of nails were made by this number of men, and that their value was not less than L. 2000. These were generally sold in Edinburgh and Glasgow, as well as in all the principal towns of the north of Scotland; and a large proportion of them were used for ship-building. This branch of nail manufacture flourished ex-



ceedingly for upwards of a century; but nail factories having been established in other parts of the country, greatly diminished the profits of the merchants here, and now the trade itself is almost totally discontinued.

The same thing may be said of the manufacture of linen cloth. Formerly, great quantities of it were made in the parish; but very few now.

The principal branch which flourishes at present is the manufacture of checks and ticks. This branch of trade was introduced into the parish between 1710 and 1720; it continued to increase till 1776; but about that time scarcely brought L. 9000 of yearly value. It is very different at present. The number of looms employed in the manufacture of this kind of cloth is about 2088; the quantity of cloth made is supposed to be 31,006,720 yards; and the annual value of this quantity not under L. 150,236. A large proportion of this is sold in Glasgow, London, Manchester, Liverpool, Nottingham and Leeds. A large proportion of it is also sent to other parts of Europe, to the Cape of Good Hope, and to the East and West Indies. The number of hands employed in this department of trade, including weavers, winders, and warpers, may be fairly estimated from 5000 to 6000. Several of the manufacturers have agencies in different parts of the country, in Ceres, Strathmiglo, and Perth; and it appears from their testimony that the number of looms employed by them out of the parish is above 1000.

The weavers are engaged all the six days of the week, when they can find employment. Some of them, indeed, are obliged to work from four or five in the morning till ten or eleven at night; and after all their industry, will not earn more than 5s. or 6s. per week. It is almost needless to add, that this is but a poor remuneration for their labour; that the effects of such long hours on their health are any thing but good, and are very adverse to mental improvement.

At the mill where flax is spun, the work people are employed from half-past five in the morning till eight at night, half an hour being allowed for breakfast and the same for dinner. The earnings of the female mill-spinners are from 6s. to 7s. weekly. It deserves to be mentioned that the proprietors of this mill are men of great respectability; that they take an interest in the morals of the young people; and that they will not allow the most distant approaches to anything like vice.

*Navigation.*—Formerly the shipping interest of the Port of Dysart was considerable, by far the greatest of any in Fife. Now, however, there are only a few brigs and a few sloops, and there are no foreign vessels to the port, except now and then one from Holland or from the Baltic, or when coals are ordered for the Northern Lighthouses.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Burgh.*—The only town in the parish is the town or burgh of Dysart. It consists chiefly of three narrow streets, with a species of square in the centre. The central or High Street is full of antique substantial houses, the fronts of which are generally decorated with inscriptions and dates, and in one part of it with piazzas. The piazzas are places in which the merchants in olden times exposed their goods to sale, but the greater number of them are now built up, so that the houses themselves scarcely retain a vestige of what was thought no small part of their ancient grandeur.

The burgh was lately disfranchised, owing to some informality in the Michaelmas elections; and its affairs at present are under the superintendence of three managers, nominated by the Court of Session. The revenue of the burgh is about L. 500 or L. 600. The nearest market-town to it is Kirkcaldy.

*Villages.*—There are three villages in the parish, Pathhead, Gallaton, and Boreland. Pathhead is in the western extremity of the parish, at the head of a steep descent leading to Kirkcaldy called the *Path*, and from thence it derives its name. It is divided into Pathhead Proper or Dunnikier, and Sinclairton. The former or old town, which is of very ancient date, is built on the estate of Dunnikier. It consists of three principal streets, the Back, the Middle, and the Nether Street, at the end of which last street, is the house long inhabited by the family of Dunnikier. The latter, or New Town, is built on the estate of the Earl of Rosslyn, and is separated from the former by the great road leading to Dundee. The building of it commenced about seventy years ago, and extends about a mile north, where it joins the village of Gallaton. The population in this part of the parish, as will be seen from the last census, is 3764.

Gallaton is a village of considerable extent. It is divided into Easter and Wester Gallaton. The population of both is 1053. There are two traditions respecting the origin of the name. The one is, that under the feudal system, the field on which the first house was built was the place where criminals were executed. The other



and more probable of the two is, that about two or three hundred years ago, a noted robber or house-breaker suffered the extreme penalty of the law here, and that, from this circumstance, it got the name of Gallowstown, afterwards of Gallaton. It was long a place celebrated for the making of nails: and when Dr Adam Smith resided in Kirkaldy, he frequently came to converse with the more intelligent nailers in this village respecting their mode of barter.

The village of Boreland is the most inconsiderable of the three. It is about half a-mile to the south-east of Gallaton; it was founded about a century ago, and is inhabited by those who are employed in the coal works. About twenty years ago, there were fully 300 individuals residing here; but by the last census the population does not exceed 184. This arises from the coal works being carried on on a less scale than formerly.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish enjoys ample means of communication with almost every part of the country. It has two post-offices or rather sub-offices; Kirkaldy being the nearest post-town. The turnpike roads are in excellent condition. There is one which leads to Dundee and Aberdeen, about four miles and a-half in length; another leading to St Andrews by Ceres, about three miles in length; and another which branches off from the great road to Dundee and leads into the interior of the country, north from the village of Gallaton. Besides two steam-boats which ply regularly to Newhaven, a packet which plies three times a-week to Leith, and an occasional one to Dundee, no fewer than six public carriages travel on the turnpike roads,—two to Aberdeen, one to Dundee, one to Perth, one to Montrose, and one to Crail.

The only two bridges in the parish which need to be mentioned are those on the water of Oar and Lochty. The one is about two miles and a-half from the cross of Dysart, and the other about three miles.

The harbour of Dysart, the revenue of which belongs to the burgh, has been long and well known not to be one of the safest on the Frith of Forth. In winter, when the wind is easterly, it is extremely dangerous. The swell inside of it is so great that ships have been frequently driven from their moorings, and have been almost wrecked in it; indeed, it is no unusual thing to be obliged to scuttle them. This arises not so much from the situation of the harbour, as from the construction of the east pier. Several eminent engineers and naval gentlemen have repeatedly given it as their opinion, that, were part of it taken down and carried out in a different direction, Dysart might not only be made

the safest and most commodious harbour on the coast, but might be rendered capable of admitting ships of almost every burden, and might even admit vessels drawing fifteen feet of water when the tides were at their lowest ebb. As this, however, required more funds than the town-council could command, it was resolved a few years ago to convert a quarry adjacent to the west pier, into a wet dock,—an undertaking which has been lately completed; so that Dysart can now boast of a harbour to which none on the coast of Fife can be compared. The depth of water it contains is fully eighteen feet, and it will hold about seventeen or eighteen vessels of different burdens, exclusive of what the old harbour will contain.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church was built in 1802. It is a neat plain building, is seated for 1600 examinable persons, and cost from L. 1800 to L. 2000. Its situation, which is at the top of the town, is fully as convenient for the parishioners in general, as any other which could have been selected, none of them being more than twenty minutes walk from it, except those living in the country, many of whom are above five miles distant. The seats are all private property, except a few which belong to the kirk-session. These last are let every half year at a very low rate, and the rents given to the poor. There are no free sittings for the poor. Dysart is a collegiate charge. The stipend of the first minister, as lately augmented, is  $17\frac{1}{2}$  chalders of victual, half meal, and half barley, payable according to the highest fiar prices of the county. He has also a chalders of salt yearly, the value of which is L. 3, 12s.;  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of coals weekly; L. 10 for communion elements; and 15s. 11d. from some old buildings, called the Teind Barns, which, with the consent of the presbytery, were feued to Lord Sinclair about sixty years since. The minister has also a manse and glebe, and a right to the fish teinds. The glebe consists of four acres, and would bring at present L. 20 of yearly rent. It is only about eleven years since a glebe was given. Although the house which the minister occupies is about forty years old, it is not more than five years since it was made a manse. The former one, which was built in 1777, requiring some repairs,—it was thought more advisable to purchase the present house, which is considerably larger; to which exchange the presbytery consented. The stipend of the second minister is 10 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, paid in the same manner as that of the first. He has L. 50 of money, part of which are included in the 10 chalders of victual;  $10\frac{1}{2}$  cwt. of coals in the fortnight, and L. 5 for communion elements. He also receives L. 25 yearly, being the interest of money mortified in the town's



hands upwards of two hundred years ago. He has neither manse nor glebe, nor any allowance for them. The Earl of Rosslyn is the patron of both charges.

Large and increasing though the population of Dysart be, there are no Chapels of Ease attached to the Established Church. But about thirteen years ago, seven or eight individuals connected with the village of Pathhead, agreed to erect a place of worship at their own expense. It cost about L. 3000, and they have no return for their money but the seat rents, which are far from being an adequate remuneration. The house was opened in November 1823,—ever since which time the ministers of Dysart have preached in it, and dispensed the ordinances of religion, without asking or receiving any emolument. The building is neat and elegant; it is ornamented with a spacious tower, and is seated for 970 persons.

There are two dissenting chapels in the parish, the one belonging to the synod of Relief, and the other to the Antiburghers. The stipend of the minister in the Relief chapel is very small, and that of the Antiburgher does not exceed L. 100 yearly. Both are dependent for their livings upon the seat rents, and the Sabbath days' collection made at their church doors. These cannot amount to much, when it is considered that the usual congregation in both places does not exceed 800 or 900 people at most.

A few years ago, the parish was divided by authority of the Presbytery, so that each minister has now a district under his own immediate superintendence. In the east division, which includes the town of Dysart, the villages of Gallaton, Boreland, and the country part of the parish, the state of matters with respect to the Church is as follows:

	<i>Belonging to the Church.</i>	<i>Other deno- minations.</i>	<i>Unknown to belong to any.</i>
Dysart,	1262	364	58
Gallaton,	910	255	144
Boreland and country,	337	90	29
	<hr/> 2509	<hr/> 709	<hr/> 231

The number usually attending the parish church is from 1200 to 1300; and at Pathhead it is about 600. There are about 1800 names on the communion roll; but of this number not more than 600 or 700 communicate in the parish church, at each sacrament; and not more than 400 at Pathhead.

There are several religious societies in the parish, viz. a Bible and Missionary Society, which occasionally gives part of its funds to the Gaelic and Hibernian Societies; a Sabbath Evening School Society; and a Society for the Education of Children. This last

society does not educate the young people gratuitously ; but only pays one-half of the school fees, upon condition that the parents pay the other half. Hitherto, it has been supported by individual subscriptions among the heritors, and by the parishioners at large, and also by collections at the church doors.

Besides these, there is a society in the town of Dysart for the support of indigent old women. It has existed for nearly half a century, and has been the means of doing much good. Its expenditure has been about L. 40 yearly.

The exact amount of contributions for religious and charitable purposes cannot easily be ascertained ; but, including collections made at the church doors, it is not less than L. 100 yearly. Last year it was nearly L. 200. Owing to the dulness of trade, and the low rate of wages among the labouring classes of society, and owing to few of the heritors residing constantly in the parish, the collections made at the church doors are not so great as formerly.

*Education.*—There are 14 schools in the parish,—two of which are taught by females,—viz. at Dysart, 4 ; at Pathhead, 4 ; at Sinclairtown, 2 ; at Gallaton, 3 ; at Boreland, 1 ; total, 14. The parochial or rather the burgh school is conveniently situated only for such children as reside in the town of Dysart. The master is elected by the town-council, who pay his salary, amounting to L. 43, partly from the burgh funds, and partly from money mortified for this purpose. He has no dwelling-house nor garden, but he receives an allowance for them from the town. Besides the usual branches of education, he teaches Latin, book-keeping, and mensuration. All the other schools are supported by school-fees alone, except two,—one in Pathhead, which is endowed, and the master of which receives L. 120 in the year for teaching 150 children reading, writing, and arithmetic ; and another in Boreland, the salary of which is L. 8, besides free house, school-house, and coals. The total number of children attending the above-mentioned schools varies from 700 to 800.

Notwithstanding the facilities for education that this parish affords, it was lately ascertained, that there are nearly 60 persons above the age of fifteen who cannot read or write. Judging, however, from the eagerness with which many parents have availed themselves of the advantages which have been more recently held out, it would, perhaps, be unfair to say, that the people in general are not alive to the benefits of education ; and the number of uneducated children in the parish can, in very many instances, be traced to the low wages



which the labouring classes receive, and which render it almost impossible for them to educate their children without assistance.

It was already said, that the burgh school is conveniently situated for those children only who reside in the town. But it ought to be mentioned, that although the present teacher is a distinguished scholar, the youth, even within the town, are so numerous, that they could not be educated at all were it not for the private schools which have been opened. And in the landward or country part of the parish, which is 4, 5, and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles distant from Dysart, the youth would not be educated at all, were it not that a school-house has been built by subscription in a corner of the parish of Markinch, supported partly by school fees, and partly by a salary paid to the teacher by the Earl of Rosslyn and Mr Balfour of Balgonie. At the last examination of this school there were 70 children present, amongst whom were four Latin scholars.

The expense of education in this parish is in some cases 2d. per week, but more generally 3d. weekly, or 3s. per quarter for the ordinary branches. It is almost needless to add, that in each of the villages in the parish, especially in Gallaton, Boreland, and the landward part of the parish, an established master is required.

*Libraries, &c.*—There are two subscription libraries in the parish, consisting of books of history, voyages, travels, &c. There is one called the Mechanics' Library, and there is another consisting of religious books only. The subscription to the three former is 1s. quarterly, and to the latter 1s. yearly, or a penny per month.

There are two public reading rooms in the parish, where most of the usual newspapers of the day may be seen.

The only friendly societies now in the parish are those among the sailors, the maltmen, and the bakers. These have been long in existence, at least two hundred years. The funds belonging to each of them are extensive, and are entirely devoted to the support of indigent or decayed members.

*Savings' Bank.*—There is also a savings' bank in Dysart, the accumulated fund of which is about L. 1200. The deposits in it are chiefly from the labouring classes.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons who receive aid from the parish funds is 120, and the average allowance to each is 2s. 6d. per month. In some cases, however, 3s. or 4s. are given. The fund is made up by collections at the church door, amounting on an average to L. 90 per annum; by seat rents belonging to the kirk-session, amounting to about L. 30 in the year; and by an annual contribution among the heritors, which varies from

L. 150 to L. 200 yearly. Out of this fund, two lunatics are supported in an asylum.

It must be admitted, that now and then application is made to the kirk-session for parochial aid, which they cannot sustain; yet there is no particular disposition in this parish to seek such relief; and it is but justice to mention, that there are many instances in which widows, with large families, and in which other individuals, have come forward and thanked the kirk-session for what had been done for them in their day of need, and have respectfully declined farther assistance.

*Prison.*—Dysart cannot certainly boast of having a well-secured prison; but there is seldom a prisoner in it.

*Fairs.*—Formerly there were six annual fairs in the parish, for the sale of wool, white cloth, lintseed, and black cattle. These were attended by merchants from Glasgow, Edinburgh, and Stirling. Now, however, little remains of them but the name. They are almost completely deserted.

*Inns.*—There are by far too many public-houses in the parish,—not fewer than 150,—and it is almost needless to say, that their effects upon the morals of the people are most pernicious.

*Fuel.*—Coal is in great abundance, and very cheap. Twelve hundred weight, including carriage, may be had for 5s. in almost any part of the parish; and in some parts of it for less.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The most striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time when the last Statistical Account was made out are these: great improvements in agriculture; much waste land reclaimed, drained, and embanked; farm-buildings greatly improved; almost total giving up of the nail trade; and prodigious increase of the manufacture of checks and ticks; comparatively little ship-building; great diminution of shipping; fairs or public markets given up; a new church and schoolhouse in Dysart, and a new church and endowed school in Pathhead; a greatly improved harbour; the erection of a mill for spinning flax; a patent slip for repairing vessels of large tonnage; a complete and safe harbour; friendly societies diminished in number; and a prosperous savings' bank. Formerly almost every female was taught to spin lint, but for many years past, this practice has entirely ceased.

*Revised April 1836.*

FIFE.

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# PARISH OF ABBOTSHALL.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN MURRAY, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE whole of Abbotshall, with the exception of three farms, Easter and Wester Touch, belonging to Kinghorn, and Wester Boggie to Dysart,—was disjoined from the parish of Kirkaldy in the year 1650.\*

*Name.*—The newly erected parish was called Abbotshall, a name obviously derived from the circumstance of one of the abbots of Dunfermline having built a house here, in which he occasionally resided. The situation of the house, or hall of the abbot as it was styled, was about a quarter of a mile due west from the present church, and near to the centre of the Raith gardens, or what are still sometimes called the Abbotshall gardens. A fine yew tree which grew in front, and which has already stood the blast of centuries, will probably long serve to mark out to the inquirer the spot on which the mansion of the abbot was placed.†

\* This disjunction originated in an application made to the presbytery by several of the heritors of the landward district of Kirkaldy, in consequence of the great extent of the parish, and distance of a considerable part of it from the church,—praying that they would appoint some of their number to visit that part of the parish, and report whether or not another church should be built. The records of presbytery bear that they willingly received this application, and appointed certain of their number to visit the bounds of the said landward district, and to report their judgment of the necessity of separating it from the other part of the parish; as also what was the fittest place where a new church should be built, in the event of their opinion being favourable to the disjunction. It also appears from the records of presbytery, of date October 31st, 1649, that this visitation was made, and that a report was given in favourable to the wishes of the petitioners. The consequence was, that the presbytery recommended to the Commissioners of Parliament for Surrenders and Tithes that a disjunction should take place, which the commissioners authorized, and the whole was completed the following year.

† At what time the lands of Abbotshall ceased to be the property of the Abbey of Dunfermline we are not aware, but it appears probable that they were disposed of about the same time (the year 1450) that the town of Kirkaldy and lands in the immediate neighbourhood were disposed by the commendator and convent to the bailies and community of Kirkaldy. Be that, however, as it may, it is certain that Abbotshall was for a great length of time the property of the Scotts of Balwearie, and that it afterwards became the property of the Ramsays (of Abbotshall,) who sold it to the ancestors of the present proprietor, Mr Ferguson of Raith. Sir Robert Sibbald, in his History of Fife, which was published near the beginning of last

*Boundaries—Extent.*—The parish being a good deal intersected by other parishes, is of an irregular shape; but its greatest length, from the coast to the north-west, is not less than 4 miles, and its breadth, which varies much at different points, may average 2. It is bounded on the north-east by Kirkaldy; on the south-east by the Frith of Forth; on the south-west by the parish of Kinghorn; and on the north-west by that of Auchterderran. The parish of Auchtertool touches it on the west.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Along the coast, the grounds are flat and level to the distance of more than half a-mile from the sea, when they begin to rise into fine sloping banks, with occasional interruptions, for the distance of three miles; afterwards they gradually descend till they reach the extremity of the parish.

*Soil, &c.*—The soil, as may be expected, is different in different parts; but on the average is greatly superior to that of most parishes in Fife. Near the sea shore, it is free and healthy,—being very generally the soil arising from decomposed whin or trap rock, and is particularly favourable for raising crops of barley and turnips. Further back, and where the grounds begin to ascend, the soil is richer and stronger, being for the most part of a clayey or dark loamy substance, and well adapted for wheat, beans, and other heavy crops. Towards the extreme points, and furthest from the coast, the soil is, for the most part, of a cold tilly bottom, and consequently less productive. It is very susceptible, however, of improvement, and is in the immediate vicinity of coal and lime, though less favoured in regard to other kinds of manure than the rest of the parish.

The climate throughout the whole is good, and no diseases of an epidemic nature can be said to prevail. To this, the washing of our shores by the Forth twice every four and twenty hours doubtless contributes, as well as the many dry and inviting walks on all hands within reach of the inhabitants. At present the parish furnishes no very remarkable instances of longevity; but there are 123 persons who have outlived three score years and ten,—of whom 24 are upwards of eighty, and 2 upwards of ninety. The most prevalent winds are the westerly, and the quantity of rain which falls is 33 inches, a larger quantity than usual, 31 inches (accord-

century, speaks of the mansion-house of Abbotshall as at that time "a large and fine new house," which house must have been built by the then proprietor, Mr Andrew Ramsay, and the remains of which were standing not more than forty years ago, on the same spot, there is reason to believe, on which the original house or hall of the abbot stood.



ing to Sir John Sinclair) being the average that falls in the course of the year throughout Scotland.

*Hydrography.*—There is no stream or water of any consequence running through or connected with this parish. The streamlet flowing from Loch Gelly, in the parish of Auchterderran, and which afterwards falls into the water of Oar in the same parish, touches it for a little distance on the north-west, as does the Tiel on the south-west, and both waters are useful in turning the different mills which are situated on them. The small brook that runs from Camilla Loch, in the parish of Auchtertool, also bends its course through this parish, where it joins the Tiel previous to its falling into the sea at the west bridge. In its way, the Camilla stream serves as the principal feeder to that beautiful and picturesque sheet of water known by the name of the Raith Lake. This lake, which is situated in the heart of the Raith pleasure-grounds, and at the base of the hill on which the mansion-house is placed, was formed by the present proprietor in the year 1811–12, and is one of the finest artificial constructions of the kind that is anywhere to be seen. It is somewhat of an oval form, about a mile in length, and at certain points almost a quarter of a mile in breadth. The extent of ground it covers is not less than twenty-one acres, and the water is at some places twenty-five deep. It was originally an extensive hollow, as if scooped out, in some measure, for the purpose, by the hand of nature;—and by filling it up at some places, and deepening and extending it at others, the work was in a short time completed; a sluice is left at the centre, by which the lake can be filled or emptied at pleasure. The whole is finished in a masterly and ingenious manner, and the expense was very inconsiderable, considering the surface it covers, and the quantity of water it contains. The lake abounds in a variety of fishes, such as trout, perch, tammel, and eel. There are several pleasure boats on it belonging to the family, and the angler may find abundance of amusement. It is graced by some beautiful white swans, which may now and then be seen floating majestically along, and wild ducks are flying about in various directions. On every side, the lake is surrounded with delightful walks,—which, as well as the other walks about Raith, are, through the liberality of the proprietor, at all times accessible to the more respectable portion of the community. To strangers and others, who, during the summer and autumn months, come from different quarters of the country to view the fine scenery and highly decorated grounds of Raith, the lake is a principal object of attraction and admiration.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The greater part of this parish, in common with the district around Kirkaldy, is composed of rocks of the two great formations, that of the carboniferous limestone and the coal strata, with an intermixture of trap rock. The carboniferous limestone is well displayed in the quarry of Innertiel, which, although not in Abbotshall, deserves notice in this place, as affording the best section of that strata which runs through the parish. In that quarry, the carboniferous limestone is in thick beds, with interposed seams of dark-coloured calcareous shale. The limestone is quite full of encrinural remains; and many of the rarer portions of encrinurites, viz. the bases, fingers, and even the bodies in a pretty perfect state, may be extracted from the loose shale. Trochites shewing great variety and delicacy in their markings are also abundant. The following species of encrinurites (following the nomenclature of Miller) were met with, after a careful search in the shale, by a scientific friend of the writer of this Account, who lately resided for a short time in the parish.—*Cyathocrinites planus*, *C. tuberculatus*, *C. rugosus*, *C. quinquangularis*, *Platycrinites lævis*, *P. rugosus*, *Poteriocrinites tenuis*, and *Rhodocrinites*. Of all these *Cyathocrinites tuberculatus*, which Miller states to be rare in England, was the most common. There is, in the limestone, also abundance of *Orthoceratites* and *Terebratulites*, and a variety of other shells. The Chapel quarry, which is the principal one of the kind in this parish, is of limestone of the same formation, and exhibits large encrinural columns, sometimes an inch and a-half in diameter, and *Orthoceratites* nearly two feet long. Some rare forms of calcareous spar are also to be met with in cavities in the limestone. The carboniferous limestone is much interrupted and disturbed by trap rocks, which rise here and there to the surface. Upon it, rest the coal strata which run through this district, and which contain valuable seams of coal. Amid this variety of fossils, freestone is also to be met with, and is used for the common purposes of building. For the better sort of houses, however, and the more ornamental parts of buildings, the Collelo stone, or some other of a similar kind, is generally preferred. Coal being profitably worked by some of the proprietors in the immediate neighbourhood, there are no pits open at present in this parish. The inhabitants, however, are well supplied with that article of fuel, and at an easy rate. The nearest colliery is that at the back of the town of Kirkaldy, belonging to Sir John Oswald, where the price of coal is 7s. 7d. per ton of 21 cwt. At the colliery of Dysart, belonging to the Earl of Rosslyn, the price is 7s.; and at the colliery of Cluny, belonging to



Mr Ferguson of Raith, the price is 6s. 5d. The Cluny coal, though the most distant, is generally preferred. The price of lime at the different quarries is from 2s. to 2s. 4d. per boll old corn firloft, and the quantity sold annually is very considerable.

*Botany.*—The only plants that may be called rare are *Campanula rapunculoides*, *Listera ovata*, and *Drosera rotundifolia*. The first of these is to be found on the farm of Balwearie, the others on the farm of Torbain.

The trees most commonly to be met with are, the oak, beech, sycamore, chesnut, spruce, ash, walnut, elm, larch, Scotch fir, &c. all of which thrive well, except the larch, which seems impatient of the soil, and soon becomes chaffed, and sometimes even rotten at the heart, against its thirtieth year. In the Raith plantations, all these kinds of trees and many more are to be seen in great beauty and perfection. Immediately in front of the mansion-house, there is a fine beech, which measures in circumference 14 feet; on the south side of the house, there are two chesnuts likewise of large size and dimensions. The girth of the one is  $11\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and of the other  $9\frac{1}{2}$ . A hawthorn, which stands on the east side of the garden, is well worthy of notice, being of great age, size, and beauty. Near the same place, and about twenty yards from the approach, is to be seen what is considered the purest purple beech in the county. Evergreens of every variety thrive well about Raith, particularly the Portugal laurels, many of which form fine trees of 5 feet in girth of bole and upwards. The whole of the plantations there, are under a good system of management, both as to pruning and thinning, and the thinnings, though seldom large, are readily purchased for the excellent quality of the timber.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—The antiquities of the parish are few and easily told. On Cormie Hill, or that eminence on which the Raith Tower stands, there have been found, at different places, several rude stone coffins, similar to what have been found in other parts of Scotland. Some urns have also been dug up containing human bones. On the part where the Tower stands, there was a small artificial mound, on removing which it evidently appeared to have been a burnt mould and many fragments of deers-horns were found in it. From several appearances, this hill is supposed to have been in former days a military station, or at all events a place of national rendezvous.

The ruins of the tower of Balwearie, anciently the property of the famous wizard, Sir Michael Scott, are still preserved. From what re-

mains, it must have been originally of great strength, and of considerable importance. The walls measure in thickness six feet and a-half, and the dimensions within walls are thirty feet. It is reasonably supposed to have been a square. All that is now preserved is the east wall, which is entire, and part of the north and south walls. The lower part of it has been arched, and it was probably used as a defence for cattle. In these more peaceable times, it is used for feeding cattle, which purpose it is made to answer well. The height of this tower or castle could not be less than from fifty to sixty feet. On the roof of the building, according to tradition, the white-haired and venerable sage was accustomed to sit, observing the face of the heavens, and conversing with the stars.

*Eminent Men.*—Sir Michael Scott was born at Balwearie,\* according to the most accredited accounts, near the beginning of the thirteenth century, and from his earliest youth discovered a remarkable thirst for knowledge. After receiving such scanty rudiments of education as his native country at that time afforded, he went into England, where, at the University of Oxford, he devoted himself with deep application to the study of philosophy. Completing his studies at Oxford, he repaired, according to the fashion of the age in which he lived, to the University of Paris, where he prosecuted with so much ardour the study of mathematics, as to acquire for himself the name of “Michael the mathematician.” Nor did he, in the midst of these avocations, neglect the study of the sacred letters and divinity; but gaining in these branches a high reputation, he received the degree of Doctor in Theology. With these learned distinctions, Michael Scott determined on farther travels, and visited many other countries and universities. Amongst these, he first sought the far-famed College of Padua, where such appears to have been the impression created by his talents, that his essays were no longer, as in France, confined within the walls of a university. His fame became noised abroad, and he began to publish to the world those predictions of future events, which were remembered in later times with awe and reverence in Italy.† From Italy, Michael Scott,

\* Balwearie, according to Sibbald, was in possession of the family of Scott for at least 500 years. To the same family belonged also Scotscraig and many other lands in the county. The family of Scott of Balwearie is said to be now represented by Scott of Ancrum.

† Vellani, a historian who wrote long after the reputed prophet was gathered to his fathers, records a prediction of Michael Scott's, which he declares had been rigidly fulfilled; and Dante has given him, in his character of a magician, a conspicuous place in his *Inferno*.

“Quel altro che ne fianchi e così poco  
Michele Scotto fu, che veramente  
Delle magiche frode seppe il gioco.” *Inferno, Canto 20th.*



still unwearied in the pursuit of knowledge, made his way into Spain, where, at the University of Toledo, he had the best opportunity of cultivating the occult sciences, under the patronage of the Emperor Frederick the Second. Having perfected himself in the study of alchemy, he turned his thoughts to the study of medicine, and for this purpose went into Germany, where he resided for several years previous to his return to his native country. He arrived in Scotland just at that critical juncture when the nation was plunged into grief by the death of Alexander the Third; and, along with Sir David Wemyss was appointed to proceed to Norway to bring home the young Queen,—the result of which expedition is well known. This is the last occasion in which the name of Sir Michael Scott appears to be mentioned. Of his death nothing is recorded; but he must have died soon after his return from Norway, and in extreme old age. It is a curious fact, that in his native parish, there are fewer stories current amongst the people about this extraordinary character, and his name is less frequently mentioned than in most other parts of Scotland.

“Fama - - - - -  
Mobilitate viget, viresque acquirit eundo.”

From the time of Michael Scott, there does not appear to have been any character of note connected with Abbotshall, till the year 1538, when we find Thomas Scott, † a Lord of Session, under the title of Lord Abbotshall. In the year 1671, we find Sir Andrew Ramsay mentioned as a Lord of Session, under the same title. Sir Andrew continued to hold the office of a Judge till 1674, during which time he was twice Provost of Edinburgh. It was while he filled the civic chair in the year 1667, that Charles the Second (by whom he was probably knighted) ordered that the Provost of Edinburgh should take the same precedency as the Mayor of London, and that no other Provost should assume the title of “My Lord.” Sir Andrew died, and was buried at Abbotshall in 1688. ‡ In the year 1690, we find George Melville of Raith

• Sir Walter Scott tells us, in a note to the Lay of the Last Minstrel, in which romantic poem the name of the magician is embalmed, that amongst the peasantry in the south of Scotland, any work of great labour of antiquity is ascribed either to the agency of Auld Michael, of Sir William Wallace, or the Devil.

† This Scott was doubtless a descendant of Sir Michael Scott. Abbotshall, Sibbald mentions as “anciently the possession of the Scotts of Balwearie.” Both Balwearie and Abbotshall have long since formed part of the Raith estate, and are now of course the property of Robert Ferguson, Esq. of Raith.

‡ Sir Andrew Ramsay seems to have purchased Abbotshall from the Scotts. Mr Andrew Ramsay, father of Sir Andrew, and one of the ministers of Edinburgh, is noticed as having died at his son’s house at Abbotshall in the year 1659; thus intimating, as it were, that Sir Andrew Ramsay was the first of the name to whom Abbotshall belonged. Sir Andrew was succeeded in Abbotshall, according to Sibbald, by his “nevy Mr Andrew Ramsay, and a grandson of the Laird of Whitstoun in the Mearns.”

mentioned as one of the Peers of Scotland, under the title of Lord Melville, Lord Raith, Monymenal and Balwearie, Viscount Kirkaldy, and Earl of Melville. The family and titles are now merged in that of Leven, and the estate of Raith soon after passed into the hands of the present family.

This parish had the honour of giving birth to William Adam, who arrived at the greatest eminence as an architect, which the limited opportunities at that time afforded by his native country would permit. Hopetoun House and the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh, the one a splendid, the other a plain structure, are specimens of his abilities. William Adam, it need hardly be mentioned, was the father of Robert and James Adam, still more distinguished for their genius in architecture, and who reared that splendid monument of their taste and names, "The Adelphi." The family is now represented by the Honourable William Adam, late Chief-Commissioner of the Jury Court.

It would be improper to omit, that that distinguished soldier and patriot, Sir Ronald C. Ferguson, is a native of this place. He was born at Raith, the seat of his family, in the year 1771.

*Land-owners.*—These are five in number, and two of them have their principal residences here. Raith, anciently the seat and possession of the Earls of Melville, now the property of Robert Ferguson, Esq. M. P. is by far the most considerable estate in the parish, being more than equal in value and extent to all the rest of the parish together. The mansion-house was originally built in the year 1694, by Lord Raith, Treasurer Depute, and must have been at that time a substantial good house. Its length is 72 feet, and its breadth 40. To the original house were added two wings, during the time of the late Mr Ferguson, which made the accommodation very complete, and such as became the mansion-house of so fine an estate as Raith. A few years ago, the present proprietor attached to the front of the house a fine Ionic portico, which gives to the whole a light and elegant appearance. In the interior of the house, what principally claims attention is the library, which contains a well chosen assortment of books, both ancient and modern,—and a cabinet of minerals, which, for richness and extent, is surpassed by few private collections of the sort in the kingdom. The situation of the house is noble and commanding, and the extent of plantations and pleasure grounds which surround it is very considerable. Near the summit of the hill on which the mansion-house is seated, and perhaps 400 feet above the level of the sea, stands the tower, which is a square building, with an inside



stair of 54 feet in length. From the top of this tower so extensive is the view, that not less than parts of fourteen, some say sixteen, different counties can be distinctly pointed out in a clear day. In the near vicinity of Raith, and a little further up the country, stands the mansion-house of Wester Bogie, the property of Miss Thomson, only child of the late James Thomson, Esq. of Wester Bogie. The house of Bogie is modern, and was built after a design by Mr Gillespie Graham, in the form of a castle. The plan of building is well suited to the situation, which is high, and surrounded with some fine old trees. The extent of ground is limited; but, for its size, Bogie is considered one of the most desirable properties in the county.\*

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1755,	1348
1791,	2136
1821,	3267
1831,	4206
The number of inhabitants residing in towns is	3607
in villages,	197
in the country,	408
Number of persons under 15 years of age,	1618
between 15 and 30,	1820
30 and 50,	930
50 and 70,	515
upwards of 70,	123
of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50,	49
of women, maids, and widows above 45,	111
of families in the parish,	942
Average number of children to each family,	4
The number of inhabited houses is	494
of houses uninhabited or now building,	2
of insane persons,	2
of blind,	3
of deaf and dumb,	1

The following table gives a pretty accurate division of the inhabitants according to their respective occupations in life.

Proprietors residing occasionally, 2; non-residing, 3,	5
Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards in other parishes, but residing here,	3
Number of wholesale merchants and capitalists,	25
clergy and other professional men,	5
farmers,	13
cottars,	42
farm-servants,	50
men employed in manufactures or making machinery; masters,	23
workmen,	56
weavers; heads of families, 208; apprentices and journeymen, 288,	496
men employed in retail, trade, or in handicraft, masters,	110
workmen,	137
labourers, not agricultural,	120
miners,	21
fishers,	43
male-servants above 20, 17; do. under 20, 2,	19

\* Bogie was formerly the property of Sir James Wemyss of Bogie.

Number of female servants,	102
weavers' looms in the parish,	506
of these not working,	53

In manners, the inhabitants of the parish are civil and discreet, and their external deportment is decent and respectful. They are inquisitive and fond of knowledge, and reading occupies a considerable portion of their leisure time. What relates to politics and religion chiefly engages their attention, in this way. They are fond of speculation in the one, and of controversy in the other.\* Notwithstanding, they are good and peaceable subjects, and live together in friendly and Christian intercourse.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

The number of Scots acres in the parish,	3166
under tillage,	2631
under wood,	535

They are thus divided :

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Roods.</i>	<i>Falls.</i>		<i>Acres.</i>
Mr Ferguson of Raith has in culture,	1444	0	0	in wood,	457
Sir J. Oswald,	447	1	35		4
J. W. Melville of Bennoch,	202	0	7		
J. A. Thomson of Charleton,	379	0	0		58
Miss Thomson of Bogie,	159	0	0		16
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>
	2631	2	2		535

*Rent of Land.*—The land rents are different in different parts. On the coast and about the town L. 5, and even L. 6 per acre are nothing uncommon to pay for land. Further back, and a little way up the country, the rent may be from L. 2, 10s. to L. 3 per acre, and in the more remote parts, the land rents are as low as L. 1, 10s. and L. 1. The average of the whole may be L. 2, 10s. The valued rental of the parish is L. 798, 9s. 9d. The real rental may be about L. 7500.

*Husbandry.*—The rotation of crops generally practised is summer fallow or potatoes, after which comes wheat, then beans drilled and hoed, or grass pastured two years, or the first year hay, and the second pasture. Grass is generally succeeded by a crop of oats. The rotation, however, necessarily varies according to circumstances, and the taste of the grower; but, with a very few exceptions, the alternate cultivation of leguminous and culmiferous crops is strictly adhered to; and so superior, indeed, is this method of cropping to that anciently used, of taking successive corn crops, until poverty

\* Within these few years, several controversial writings on religious topics have been given to the world from this parish, exhibiting powers of composition not to be expected from persons in the situations of their authors. It is certainly to be regretted, however, for themselves and families, that a love of idle and useless disputation, should call off the attention of individuals from their honest and lawful vocations.



and weeds had gained full possession of the soil, that one would imagine that nothing but the most imperative necessity or the worst motives should induce a farmer to depart from it. In the immediate vicinity of the town, summer fallow is now little practised, and potatoes generally come instead,\*—a crop which always meets with a constant and ready demand. Turnips, too, are very frequently substituted for beans,—after which, uniformly follows a crop of barley. Throughout the whole of this parish, agricultural operations are carried on with spirit and assiduity, and nowhere during the last forty years has the face of the country undergone a greater change. The farmers are, generally speaking, men of capital and skill, and there is no tried improvement in modern farming which has not been adopted and pursued with success. The situation of the parish is favourable for agricultural improvement and enterprise. The populous community of Kirkaldy, with its weekly markets, makes a ready demand for all kinds of farm produce, and there is no part of the parish distant from coal and lime. To those near the towns, the stables and streets afford a regular supply of dung at a moderate expense; and sea-weed is occasionally to be had for the trouble of collecting and driving. But if the farmers in this parish are thus favoured in regard to situation, they are no less so in regard to their respective landlords, who are men of liberality and discernment, and afford every encouragement to honest and persevering industry. The farms are all of that size which is favourable to improvement, and the leases are uniformly of nineteen years duration.† The dwelling-houses and offices are likewise good, and for the most part new, and the fields are all well enclosed and subdivided with stone walls or hedges.

There are no sheep bred in this parish, and none to be seen in it except a few scores kept in the enclosures about Raith, and belonging to Mr Ferguson. They are of the Cheviot breed, and seem to thrive well on the fine pasture on which they are fed. There are also but few black-cattle reared in this parish,—the land being too valuable to be kept long in pasture. Those preferred are of the Fife breed, which, in their pure state, are known by their black colour, length and fineness of their horns, shortness of their

\* The profit arising in the neighbourhood of the town is very great;—L. 12, L. 16, L. 20, and sometimes even L. 24 per acre have been received for potatoes, before they have been dug up.

† To this, the fields in the neighbourhood of the town form an exception,—which are frequently parcelled out for the convenience of persons residing in the town, who wish to cultivate only a few acres, and are generally let from year to year without any lease or written agreement.

legs, and beautiful symmetry. The pure Fife breed, however, is seldom met with, and the cattle reared in this parish are for the most part a mixture of the Fife and Angus or Ayrshire. The amount of bestial at present in the parish is as follows : horses of all ages, 114 ; milch cows, 104 ; black cattle, 203 ; calves, 30 ; pigs, 81.

*Manufactures.*—The staple manufacture of this place is that of bed-ticks ; to which, of late years, has been added a species of coarse half-white linen called Dowlas, both for home and export trade. Linen checks for foreign consumpt have fallen into decay, from the greater cheapness of a similar fabric now made from cotton in other places. There is one manufactory for sail-canvas ; one bleach-field for whitening and preparing linen yarns,—a branch of trade that has of late years entirely superseded the use of hand-wheels, which were formerly so common in this and all other districts of Fifeshire, and which gave employment both to the older and younger members of families. The introduction of machinery into this branch of manufacture has not only materially increased the quantity, but has considerably diminished the expence of labour, it being produced at about two-thirds less than when spun by the hand labour. There is one factory, worked by a steam engine, for weaving a thin sheeting from linen yarn. It is considered to be well conducted, and is the only one of the kind in the county. The low rate of weaving by the hand is probably the cause why this branch of enterprise has not been more generally adopted. A brick and tyle-work of considerable extent has been very long established in this parish. At the same place, a pottery for making brown earthen-ware is carried on. A coal gas-work, for the purpose of supplying the town of Kirkaldy, Linktown of Abbotshall, &c. with gas, was erected in this parish, about two years ago. The quality of gas is considered good, and the quantity used throughout the year may average 5000 feet each night. The work is capable of affording a much greater supply ; but as yet gas has not been introduced as a general light for dwelling-houses,—being principally used for the lighting up of streets, public works, and shops. There are a variety of mills which go by water, and are employed for making flour, barley meal, &c. At one of these, not less than from 10,000 to 15,000 bolls annually are made. There is also one mill which goes by water for grinding flint, and belongs to the same gentleman that has the pottery. Brewing was formerly carried on to some extent, but now there are only two breweries in the parish, which manufacture nothing strong-



er than small beer. This is certainly to be regretted, as good malt liquor is a more wholesome beverage than whisky, which is now so common, and the cause of so much wretchedness and crime. The high price of wheaten bread gave rise, a number of years, ago to the establishment of two Societies, by which the inhabitants might be supplied with that important article of life at a cheaper rate than by the regular bakers. In so far as the cheapness of the bread is concerned, these societies have answered the purpose intended; but if it be the case, as some allege, that they have been the means of depreciating the quality of bread throughout the community (the regular trader being unable to compete on equal terms with a joint stock company) it is not so evident how far they ought to be encouraged, or whether in one way they have not done as much harm as they have done good in another. There is also a meal Society on a similar plan, which is of advantage to the public, by affording a ready supply of meal at all times, and generally at a reasonable price.

In the conducting of the different public works in this parish, there is nothing particular claiming to be noticed. The usual hours of labour at all of them are ten, excepting the spinning-mills, where twelve hours are common. All the people employed at the different works receive a fair remuneration for their labour, and, if careful, live comfortably, and frequently rear large families. The wages of certain operatives, however, have of late years been much reduced. An ordinary weaver, for instance, on the best paid fabrics, will not receive above an average of 8s. per week for his own labour. None of the public works here are considered prejudicial to the health of those employed in them; the linen manufacture in all its branches being more wholesome than that of cotton, from the absence of any artificial heat or damp. Although it cannot be denied that the congregating together of so many young people of both sexes at spinning-mills and other public works, naturally tends to a corruption and depravity of morals, yet it can hardly be said that the morals of those so employed are worse than the morals of the aggregate number of others in the same grade of society in the parish. This may be owing to the steady principle of the gentlemen to whom the works belong, and the good discipline introduced by them into all the different departments of the business. The increase of commerce and manufactures in this parish and neighbourhood gave rise, in the year 1825, to a Society known by the name of the Kirkaldy Chamber of Commerce,—the intention of which was to unite the influence of the merchants and manufactures, and

thus render them more useful to the communities to which they belonged. It is managed by a committee of directors; and some of the leading members belong to this place.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages.*—The principal town or village in the parish is what is called the Linktown, which is situated on the west side of the bay of Kirkaldy, from which it is only separated by the intervening beach. The Linktown has only one street, which is about three quarters of a mile long, and forms a continuation on the west to the principal street of the town of Kirkaldy. It is a burgh of regality, and governed by a baron-bailie, appointed by Mr Ferguson of Raith, who is superior of the whole.

The street and the lanes of Linktown are narrow, and the original houses are mostly low and uncomfortable. Many of the houses, however, have been rebuilt, and many new ones erected; all of them, in point of convenience and accommodation, far exceeding the old ones. Some of the principal manufacturers in the parish reside in Linktown, and, according to their success in business, it must prosper or decline. About the centre of the town, and at a proper distance from the street, stands the mansion-house of John Pratt, Esq. of Glentarkie, surrounded with its fine garden and shrubberies, and which is at once a credit and an ornament to the place. There are a few very good shops in this part of the parish, and more of an inferior description, which supply the inhabitants with the necessaries and conveniences of life. Two annual fairs of old standing are still held here, one on the third Friday of April, and the other on the third Friday of October. The spring fair was formerly principally kept up by the sale of lintseed; and the autumn fair, by the sale of black-cattle. Both fairs are now on the decline, and the principal commodity at each of them is shoes, which are frequently brought from a considerable distance, and sold at very low prices. In the Linktown, there is a jail or rather lock-up-house, to which the baron bailie has the power of consigning offenders. It is in bad repair and little used.

The flourishing condition of trade and consequent increase of inhabitants induced the late Mr Ferguson of Raith, about the year 1790, to feu property for building on a regular plan a street running nearly at right angles with the east end of Linktown, in the direction of the parish church. This line of building, which has never been completed, is known by the name of the New Town, and contains about 780 inhabitants, of whom, with the exception of a



few respectable families, almost all are operative weavers. Here are situated the spinning-mills of Mr James Aytoun, a gentleman of much enterprise and usefulness in the place. At Mr Aytoun's mills, not less than 120 individuals are constantly and regularly employed. There are, besides the Linktown and New Town, several villages in the country district of the parish, of minor note, containing in all about 197 souls.

*Means of Communication.*—To all parts of the parish Kirkaldy is the post-town. It may also be said to be the principal market-place, where all the necessaries and many of the luxuries of life may be had of the best description, and on reasonable terms. Throughout the whole of the parish, there is an easy communication by good roads, which are always kept in good repair. The turnpike roads may be about twelve miles in different directions, and the statute labour roads about two. There are three bridges in the parish; one of them lately built, and the other two in tolerable condition, besides several small arches of less consequence. In addition to the ordinary carriages which frequent the different roads, there are three four-horse coaches which run daily through our streets from Edinburgh to Dundee, and four coaches of the same description from Dundee to Edinburgh; a two-horse coach from the east of Fife to Edinburgh and back again; and a two-horse coach which runs from Glasgow to Kirkaldy, and from Kirkaldy to Glasgow, every lawful day alternately.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—It does not distinctly appear where the inhabitants of this parish first assembled for public worship; but it was probably in some place connected with the old mansion-house of Abbotshall. The date of the last church, which was the only one previous to the present, is 1674, twenty-four years after Abbotshall became a separate parish. The present church was built in the year 1788, and on the same spot on which the former stood. It is a substantial and comfortable edifice, though now too small for the increased population. The situation of the church, which is on an eminence at the back of the town, is very pretty, though not very convenient for the bulk of the inhabitants. It is nevertheless well attended, and the congregation is very respectable. The average number of communicants is nearly 700. There are no free sittings. The Laird of Raith is patron by a charter granted by the Crown so far back as the time of Charles II. The manse was built in the year 1772, and is the first that was in the parish. Till that time, the clergyman had an allowance of only L. 5 for a house.

An awkward addition of two good rooms was made to the manse, at the induction of the last incumbent, now upwards of twenty years ago, at an expense fully equal to the half of what it would have cost to build a substantial new house. The house has ever since been in need of repair of some kind or other. An addition was made to the offices attached to the manse, in the course of last spring, which renders them very comfortable. The stipend annexed to the cure by decreet of the Court of Teinds in 1811, is 100 bolls, 2 firloths, 2 pecks, 3 lippies of barley; 88 bolls, 2 firloths, 2 pecks, 3 lippies of meal; 36 bolls of oats, and such a further quantity of victual, half meal, half barley, as shall be equal to 100 merks Scots money, together with L. 100 Scots money for communion elements. The stipend awarded by the Court has never been realized, owing to a deficiency of teind, and the clergyman has never been paid more than a sum equal to  $13\frac{1}{2}$  chalders, out of which he has to defray the expense of communion elements,—a sum totally inadequate to the nature of the situation and the great population of the parish. The glebe consists of  $6\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and is worth about L. 30 Sterling per annum, although it has sometimes been let for more.\*

Besides the Established Church, there is one dissenting or Seceding chapel, now in connection with the United Associate Synod. The congregation belonging to it was originally formed for the reception of Mr Thomas Nairne to be their pastor, who, we have already mentioned, was deposed from being minister of Abbotshall in 1740, in consequence of espousing the principles of the old dissenters, relative to the existing civil government. Mr Nairne afterwards withdrew from the communion of the Seceders, and joined the Reformed Presbytery. He at length deserted their communion, and returned to the fellowship of the Established Church, after making humiliating confessions to the presbytery of Kirkaldy,

\* The following is a list of the different clergymen who have successively filled the cure at Abbotshall, with the date of their admission, &c. so far as can be ascertained from the imperfect registers of presbytery and kirk-session. The first found on record is Mr Patrick Wemyss, who was ordained November 4, 1650. He was the son of the Laird of Foodie. Mr Wemyss became a landed proprietor, after which he seems to have abandoned the ministry. The next mentioned is Mr Robert Forrest in 1664. Mr John Bowes was deposed from the ministry at Abbotshall, on the 15th October 1691, for heterodoxy in opposing the Assembly's Catechism. Mr Alexander Fraser was admitted 5th January 1692, and seems to have died in 1709. Mr Thomas Nairne was admitted 7th September 1710, and was deposed in 1740, for adhering to the secession, which was begun by Erskine and Moncrieff. Mr George Gib was admitted 1742, and died 1756. Mr Alexander Spiers was admitted March 1758, and was translated to Kirkaldy in 1768. Mr George Shaw was admitted 1769, and died January 1809. Mr William Anderson was admitted August 1810, and died August 25th 1825. The present incumbent was admitted in the end of March 1826.



and submitting to their admonitions. In 1831 the old house belonging to this congregation was razed to the ground, and a commodious new one built near the same spot. The minister's salary is L. 125 per annum, besides a good house and garden. His salary is paid from the seat rents, &c. Till lately, there existed a remnant of that old sect of Christians, the Cameronians, or Mountaineers as they were sometimes termed. The house or rather barn in which they assembled is now occupied by a handful of individuals, who call themselves *Christians*; but what their particular tenets are, the writer of this account has not been able to learn. They have no stated pastor, and are irregularly supplied with sermon by itinerant preachers of various descriptions. There are some Baptists and Independents, and also a few Episcopalians who have their places of worship at Kirkaldy. A very few individuals attend a Relief meeting at Dysart, and it is believed there are two or three individuals of the Roman Catholic persuasion, natives of the sister isle.

The only general parochial society for religious purposes is what is designated "The Abbotshall Bible Society," the sole object of which is the raising of a fund for the circulation of the Scriptures. It is managed by a committee chosen from amongst various classes of Christians, who adopt whatever measures they consider best calculated to promote the object of the society. An annual sermon is preached for the benefit of its funds, alternately in the parish church and dissenting meeting-house, which, together with the other stated contributions, may bring about L. 10 or L. 15 per annum.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor in this parish is very considerable. Abbotshall proceeds upon the good old plan of supporting the poor, so far as is practicable in so populous a parish, and exhibits a proof of the excellency of the system. The funds are made up of the collections at the church doors,—rents of a few pews in the church belonging to the session,—and a small annual contribution made by the heritors. The whole disbursements to the poor do not, on an average, exceed L. 130 per annum. There are at present 12 ordinary poor on the Session roll, and 7 extraordinary,—all of whom are supplied weekly according to their several necessities. In addition to each of these weekly allowances, each of the poor on the session roll receives twice in the year, a certain sum to assist in paying house rent, and providing coals. Several others who have not as yet been admitted on the roll, receive occasional assistance. Many more are prevented from

becoming burdens on the parish, by the liberality of the Raith family, to whom the poor of this parish are under many obligations. The distributions are managed by the kirk-session without any expense to the fund, except a small pittance to the session-clerk. The minister has always acted as treasurer, without fee or reward. The whole disbursements are examined, every year, at a meeting composed jointly of heritors and minister,—a practice which is satisfactory to all parties, and by which any subject which seems to be of importance to the interests of the parish can be considered with advantage and effect. There are only two or three poor belonging to the parish that beg within its bounds. These are supplied with badges by a society, which was formed about a year ago, for the purpose of preventing vagrant begging, which the inhabitants of this parish formerly felt as a great nuisance. Were a society of this nature formed in every parish, and none allowed to beg but those poor belonging to it; the real objects of charity would be much better provided for than they generally are, and much idleness and worthlessness prevented.

*Education.*—The total number of schools in the parish is 6, —which may be attended, at an average, by 500 children. The parochial school has generally attending it from 150 to 200, and sometimes upwards. The branches therein taught are Latin, French, mathematics, arithmetic, navigation, English reading and writing. The schoolmaster's salary is the maximum, and he has L. 5 more for teaching a limited number of poor children. This sum is the interest of L. 100 which was bequeathed for the purpose by a Mrs Dundas, who once resided at Raith. At the other schools, the more common branches of education are almost solely taught, and the fees for these branches are perhaps a little less than at the parish school. At one of the schools, which is entirely a charity school, the branches taught are specified by the will of the donor. The number of the children (100,) as well as their ages (from six to fifteen,)\* are also prescribed. Sunday schools have

\* This charity was bequeathed by the late Robert Philp, Esq. of Edenshead, who left his whole fortune, equal to not less than L. 70,000 or L. 80,000 Sterling, for the purpose of educating a certain number of children in the parishes of Kirkaldy, Dysart, Abbotshall, and Kinghorn. The schools in each district are under the management of a committee appointed by the inhabitants from amongst themselves, and the whole are subject to the control and direction of a set of governors in Kirkaldy, some of whom are chosen for life, and others, like the local managers, chosen biennially. Besides the education which the children at these different schools receive, which is simply English reading, writing, and arithmetic, they are furnished from the funds with books, paper, pen, ink, and slates for that purpose. They are moreover provided with clothing during their continuance at school; and on leaving school they re-



been for a considerable time established both in the town and country part of the parish; institutions that have become the more necessary since the introduction of spinning mills, which engage children before they have been properly educated, and which constantly occupy their time throughout the week. The people in general are alive to the benefits of education, and, with a few exceptions, give their children an education according to their respective circumstances. It may be remarked, that amongst all classes here, as well, indeed, as in the whole of this neighbourhood, classical education is much less an object of attention than formerly. This evidently arises from the mercantile spirit of the people, which leads them too little to value any acquisition, but as it connects itself immediately with pounds, shillings, and pence. The consequence is, that from this community there are comparatively very few young men sent to the university, or destined for any of the learned professions. Last winter there was only one young man from this parish attending a university, and seldom at any time is there more than two or three.

*Literature.*—There are no public libraries in this parish, except one of an inferior description. At Kirkaldy, however, there is a good suscription library, a circulating library, and mechanics' library, all of which are open to the inhabitants of Abbotshall on the same terms as to the inhabitants of Kirkaldy. To Kirkaldy the inhabitants of this parish are likewise indebted for a public reading room, which is well supplied with the newspapers of the day, together with the army, navy, and commercial lists, &c. &c.

*Inns.*—The number of licensed alehouses in the parish is nearly 30, a number by far too large, and which certainly ought to be reduced. Restraint, too, ought to be put upon them as to the hours during which they ought to be kept open. The justices have power to do both. The steady exertion of these powers is what is wanting.

ceive a sum between L. 2 and L. 5, or whatever more the fund will afford, the better to enable them to begin the world. Of the advantages to be derived by the different parishes from this large and benevolent bequest, it is impossible yet to speak with any precision. The schools have been established little more than a year, and all that can be said is, that the funds are managed with fidelity and economy,—that zealous and efficient teachers have been appointed, and that the children are well taught in those branches which they are allowed by the will of the donor to learn. A few years more will probably tell whether these institutions have not been the means of introducing into the different parishes in which they are established a number of poor families, who will soon obtain a legal claim to be supported by other funds besides those appropriated for educating and clothing their starving children. “Where the carcase is, there will the eagles be gathered together.”

## MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

It is obvious to the most cursory observer, that since the last Statistical Account was published, this parish has made great progress in agriculture, commerce, and all those various improvements connected with them. The consequence is, that wealth is much more generally diffused, and all classes enjoy in a greater degree than formerly the comforts and conveniences of life. What must ever be best calculated to promote the happiness of the labouring classes is, to improve their morals, and to found their virtue on its true basis, religion, not on metaphysical speculation, or the nice formed theories of state policy, but on the grand, solid, and substantial principles of Christianity. This will be found in the end not only the best means of promoting the individual happiness of the people, but the true secret of good government,—the surest bulwark of the state.

*Revised April 1836.*

P. S.—Even since the above was written, it is necessary to state that the parish has undergone many important alterations. Trade has increased considerably, and so has the population. The number of poor has in consequence increased, and of course the expenditure in behalf of the poor. The congregation which met in the place of worship formerly belonging to the Cameronians is now dispersed, and the house converted into a warehouse for flax. A new church in connection with the Establishment is in the course of erection, to supply the surplus population of this and the neighbouring parish of Kinghorn.

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## PARISH OF AUCHTERDERRAN.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANDREW MURRAY, D.D. MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries—Extent.*—THIS parish is of an irregular form, about 5 miles long and 3 broad. It is bounded by Auchtertool on the south; Abbotshall on the south-east; Dysart on the east and south; Kinglassie and Portmoak on the north; and Ballingry on the west.



*Soil, &c.*—The greater part of the soil is clay, with a mixture of sand: the rest is black earth, commonly on whinstone. The ground of Lochgelly, cultivated to the top, is 620 feet above the level of the sea, while other parts of the parish to the east and north do not exceed 200 feet in height, and even less. The climate is damp and variable. The lake of Lochgelly is three miles in circumference. The scenery on the north, presenting banks of wood and rich enclosures, is beautiful. On the other sides, the scene is bleak, and might be much improved by plantations. The Ore rising, in the west, in the parish of Ballingry runs through the whole length of this parish, and through the parishes of Kinglassie, Dysart, and Markinch, till it goes into the river Leven, about two or three miles before the united stream enters the Frith of Forth at the town of Leven. The Ore has everywhere a flat course, and is a muddy stream of no great depth. It has, within this parish two bridges over it, each of one arch.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—There are 11 heritors each having a rental above L. 50 per annum. There are seven cess feuars, two of whom have each a feu rented above L. 50 per annum.

*Parochial Registers.*—We have registers of baptisms and marriages only. They commence at the beginning of last century. It is to be hoped that the General Assembly, and the other public bodies, will be successful in bringing the defective state of the Scottish registers before Parliament.

## III.—POPULATION.

From the time of Dr Webster's Report, till that of the former Statistical Account, the population was almost stationary,—varying only betwixt 1194 and 1200. The population in 1821 was 1488; in 1831, 1590.

By my last report, the village of Lochgelly contained 342; it now contains 612, so that, although our general population has increased 100, yet the country part of the population has diminished. Lochgelly is our only village. By the census of 1831, the males are 786, the females 804.

Mr Malthus, the political economist, when reading in my former report, the hardships represented in the situation of our married labourers, wishes to change the following sentence. viz. “ That people continue to enter voluntarily upon such a hard situation, shews how much the union of the sexes and *the love of independence* are principles of human nature.” Upon this Mr Malthus

remarks, "The gentleman should have said, instead of the love of independence, *the love of progeny*." But I feel inclined still to adhere to my own version. In that class, the love of progeny does not appear to be either intense or even very general, but the desire of procuring that independence which consists in having their own house, their own fireside, their own little domestic society, &c. seems to influence them generally, and in a great degree.

Poaching and snaring are far from being unknown here. A little Highland whisky, I believe, is occasionally smuggled, although we have far too much of our own production.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture*.—We have no undivided commons, nor any ground altogether waste. All is applied to culture, to pasture, planting, buildings, yards, mines, quarries, courts, roads, water-courses. There is a great deal of wood in the parish; and if all our plantations could have been laid out upon one general improved plan, we might have had nearly all the wood necessary either for shelter or ornament. There remains, however, still unplanted the large den of Cardon, a mile long, and of considerable width, and of such depth and goodness of soil as would grow all the most valuable kinds of timber. We have all the common sorts of wood. Almost all our trees have been planted. Fife in general has very little natural wood remaining. The management of woods, though considerably improved of late, is still defective. There is a neglect of thinning, felling, pruning, and enclosing. Sir Gilbert Elliot, Treasurer to the Navy, and John Sinclair, Esq. of Balgregie, were our first planters upon a large scale. The best wooded properties are those of Lord Minto, containing 102 Scotch acres; Robert Ferguson of Raith, 73 acres, 3 roods, 9 falls; Mrs Sinclair's of Balgregie, 50 do.; Mr Reddie, Redhouse, 30 do.; and Malcolme of Balbedie, the exact number not ascertained. The number of Scotch acres in plantation over the parish is about 500. Our plantations have suffered by the planters sometimes neglecting to suit the species of tree to the quality of the ground.

*Rent of Land*.—The average rent of arable land is, per Scotch acre, L. 1, 4s.; the average rent of grazing a cow or ox L. 3 for the season.

*Rate of Wages, &c.*—Day labour rose during the late war, from 1s. to 2s. 6d. and 3s. a-day. It is now 1s. 6d. When maintained by the employer, a woman is at present hired for L. 6 for the year, and a man for L. 12. Artisans get 12s. or 14s. a week.



Hard wood costs 2s. per cubic foot ; fir, 1s. per ditto ; flax, 10s. per stone ; cheese, 28s. per cwt. ; butter, L. 4, per ditto ; mason work, L. 1, 10s. per rood.

*Husbandry.*—The Fife breed of black cattle, which is an excellent one, is kept up here, but not with the care which it requires, in cultivating the true breed, and keeping it separate from bad varieties. For droving and feeding for the home market we are well provided ; but there is no system observed in breeding for the dairy, and our milch cows are inferior. Our draught horses are of a good kind, neither too light nor too heavy. We breed no sheep. The kind of mixed farming, which is practised here, betwixt the arable and pasture, requires a greater proportion of green crops, especially of turnip, than we yet have ; but the space allotted to turnips and potatoes is increasing ; and draining, so generally practised, will prove the best means of procuring an additional quantity of dry ground for these crops. In under draining, we put into the trench a mass of stones, two feet in depth, having a siver. The depth of the trench is commonly three or four feet ; but this varies with circumstances. The stones are not brought nearer the surface than a foot. In some districts, the stones are thrown into the opening without any order, and without a siver. This is said to hinder vermin from getting in ; but it requires a far greater quantity of stones than the other practice, which we prefer. Wedge-draining is as yet but little practised. While drainage is universally practised, embanking and irrigation are but little used. There has just been finished a small embankment upon the Ore ; and at another place, the bed of the river has been straighted. Leases are generally for nineteen years. Our farms are in size from 50 to 300 Scotch acres. Enclosures are universal over the parish ; and where good stone can easily be procured, as here, this method of enclosing, though not so pleasing to the eye, is more substantial and cheaper, and more quickly got up than hedges. From 80 to 90 years ago, Mr Sinclair of Balgregie enclosed his home farm with substantial trap or Galloway dikes ; and this kind of enclosure has been generally followed since, as best suited to this district. Our farm-steads have been much improved ; and those on the property of Captain Wemyss and Mr Ferguson of Raith are the best, and perhaps as good as the farms call for.

The late Lord Minto introduced over his whole property an improved state of husbandry, from Roxburghshire, about twenty years ago. David Wemyss, Esq. of Pitkenny, when he became posses-

sed of his property in this parish, found it in a very rugged and unproductive condition, yet capable of right culture, and of producing good crops. With other proprietors, he took an active part in deepening and straighting a burn, which obstructed the agriculture of a large district, and affected the whole of the north side of his property. Here he succeeded completely, by draining effectually the parts contiguous to the burn, and also by providing sufficient levels for all the other arrangements. The chief ingredient of the soil is clay. The surface was a good deal encumbered with stones, many of them of an unwieldy size, but all obstacles have been surmounted, and by a liberal encouragement to his tenants, and by a judicious superintendence, the farms are well drained, well enclosed, and well cultivated. Upwards of twenty years ago, the late J. Reddie, Esq. of Redhouse, planted a large piece of peat moss, of about fifteen Scotch acres with Scotch firs. The ground was previously drained and levelled; and although the moss be in several places upwards of seven feet deep, of a substance entirely moss, yet the trees have thriven, and now the place formerly so gloomy and ugly, presents a pleasant prospect of verdure and utility; and the surrounding grounds, formerly marshy and insalubrious, are become wholesome.

A good many years ago, Robert Ferguson, Esq. of Raith, took under his management a tract of ground, at that time remarkably ugly, almost waste, and very unproductive. This he has converted into an arable farm, and adorned with thriving plantations. The farm itself is well enclosed, well cultivated, and very productive. It rents, I understand, at the rate of L. 1, 5s. the acre. The extent is 200 acres; and it is pleasant to learn, that while the country is hereby improved, the original improver has already been indemnified for outlays, and continues to draw very good interest for his money. The name of the farm is East Cardon. What a benefit to a country are resident proprietors!

*Produce.*—

Potatoes, 160 acres Scots, at 40 bolls per acre.

Turnips, 160 acres.

Hay, water meadow, 100 acres, at 150 stone per acre.

Pasture, one-third of the whole parish; the other two-thirds (with the above deductions,) grow wheat, barley, pease and beans, and oats. The quantity of oats sown amounts to perhaps more than that of all the other grains.

*Quarries.*—We have good limestone quarries, and coal is found



in every quarter of the parish. The average output of the Cluny coal, belonging to R. Ferguson, Esq. Raith, has been for the last four years: Great coal, per year, 70,499 loads, sold at 11d. per load,—22 stone Dutch each load, or 24 stone 1 pound English; the whole sold for home consumption. Above and under ground, at the colliery, 74 hands at present are employed, including men and boys. The quantity just now thrown out at Lord Minto's coal work, Lochgelly, is 900 loads per week, 21 stone Dutch, at 11d. per load; also 400 ditto, chews, 8d. per load; exported 300 loads per week. Men employed, 32 colliers; women, 12, under ground; men, 7, above ground. The quantity now brought up from Robert Wardlaw Ramsay's coal-work, Dundonald, is 133 loads per week, at 8d. of 22 stone Dutch; the men employed 7.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The chief village is Lochgelly. We have now useful metalled roads in various directions. The lines have not been well chosen; but we are thankful for the roads as they are. In the present depressed state of agriculture, nothing but the improvement of roads could have kept us up.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is central. It was built in 1789; the manse in 1784. There are no free sittings. The heritors divide the area, according to their valued rent, among their dependents. The glebe is  $14\frac{1}{2}$  Scotch acres in extent, and, including the glebe, the living is about L. 300 a-year. The payment of the grain of stipends by the county fiars is an excellent arrangement. At present, the average number of communicants at the Established Church is 300. All our dissenters are Presbyterians: and there is a meeting-house at Lochgelly. About one-half of the population is dissenting or seceding.

*Education.*—There are three schools within the parish, and a border school; one is the parish school, the other two village schools. The parish schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and the required accommodations. The border school, supplied with more than one-half of its scholars from this parish, has upwards of 50 scholars. The other two have about 70 each: and the masters have no salaries. The parish school has at present upwards of 90 scholars; the wages 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. per quarter. Classical learning is little in request, even in the parish school. The branches commonly taught are, English, grammatically, the English Bible, English collections, writing, accounts, a religious catechism,

geometry, mensuration, geography, navigation, book-keeping, church music. Considering their moderate means, the parents are remarkably anxious to procure education for their children, and none of these grow up without being put to school. Our parochial schools have been much improved by the augmenting of the salaries,—a measure equally wise and benevolent.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank has been kept in this parish ever since that kind of institution was introduced into Scotland. It was for some years managed by Mr Greig, the dissenting minister of Lochgelly, and myself jointly. Upon Mr Greig's death the management devolved wholly upon my family. The amount of deposits has varied from L. 900 to L. 400. The persons depositing are all of the industrious and poorer classes. The sums deposited are sometimes as low as L. 1, and never of great amount. They are deposited with the Kirkaldy branch of the Bank of Scotland. It is to be regretted that this sort of institution has not become more prevalent. Perhaps it would become more prevalent, if, instead of dividing into single parishes, a number of parishes were grouped together, such as those of a presbytery or a small county. The small county of Kinross carries on with success a county savings bank, kept at the county town.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Our poor are supplied from our collections at the church, and from the interest derived from a sum of money (about L. 700) in the management of the kirk-session. But though our collections have increased, yet, for the last two years, the interest of our money has decreased in a greater proportion. Yet we are averse to frequent assessments; for although our heritors are well inclined to our poor, we think it would not prove ultimately for the public benefit to apply often to this resource. During my long incumbency we have had only three assessments on the heritors for the poor, and these were for very moderate sums. Our number of poor upon the monthly list runs from 15 to 22 families. To each of these families the kirk-session distributes monthly 3s. at an average. But our greatest disbursements the session reserves for occasional charities, for sickness, for severe accidents, for house-rents, for school wages to poor children, for defraying the expenses of patients going and coming to or from an infirmary, &c. Every individual case is inquired into, and carefully judged of by the session.

*Alehouses.*—We have 12 of these in the parish.



## MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

I mentioned in my last report, that a turnpike road, running from east to west through this district, had been projected, and even at that time had obtained the sanction of Parliament; but it has never been executed. It was to run from the Plasterers' Inn on the Leven to Kirk of Beath. It was to give a shorter and better line of travelling towards St Andrews, Dundee, Cupar, on the one hand, and towards Queensferry, Dunfermline, Edinburgh, Glasgow, on the other. Several roads have since been made here with various views, but none directly or properly laying open this great thoroughfare. Were the lines now referred to adopted, the other roads would fall into country bye roads. It is surprising how slowly even in this mercantile country improved lines of communication are adopted. But this direction of road will, from its obvious benefits, still force itself upon the public attention.

Another turnpike still more universally important, running from south to north, and crossing the above at right angles, is projected, and engrosses much attention. It is proposed to carry this road from Burntisland to the Inn of Farg in Strathearn, there to join the great Queensferry and Perth road. From Burntisland the line runs on to Auchtertool, from Auchtertool to Auchterderran, from Auchterderran to Portmoak, passing the east end of Lochleven near to Scotland Well. From this, the line runs through part of Strathmiglo parish, near to Edenhead and to the old castle of Balvaird, and then joins the Queensferry and Perth road near the Inn of Farg. Whoever casts his eye upon a map will perceive how much space is cut off by this line, compared to that round by Queensferry. The district is also much more level.

From the day when it was first ascertained that steam-vessels could with advantage ply the Frith of Forth, this road might have been expected to commence. But it was immediately found that, to have the benefit of such a road, a low water pier would be necessary at Burntisland, and this became a preliminary obstruction which has not yet been surmounted. If we compare the outlay that would be necessary for this plan of road to the inn of Farg, with outlays made upon other great roads and works, it appears comparatively trifling. The new road from Glasgow to Carlisle, for instance, is said to have cost upwards of L. 60,000. This Fife road could be executed for less than a third of that sum: yet the city of Glasgow alone derives almost all the benefit from that conveyance, whereas here all Scotland north of Forth would be essentially be-

nefited by rendering their travelling to Edinburgh and London, and all the south-east parts of the island shorter, far more speedy and pleasant,—not to speak of the great local advantages that would attend it.

It has not yet been ascertained by experiment whether, from our clayey close-bottomed strong soil, spade culture could, with a sure prospect of remuneration, be introduced into general practice in farming. From the effects produced by this practice on our kitchen gardens, we have the fullest conviction, that the crops *thus raised are far better* than those from the plough furrow.

We sow our grains earlier than formerly, particularly barley, which was wont to be sown in May, but now generally in April; and experience confirms the advantage of the change. There is a full crop, and the grain is weightier and better ripened.

Drunkenness, formerly rare, is now lamentably frequent.—Forty years ago, emigration was thought of with much reluctance; now the predilection for the native spot has diminished, and emigration is more readily embraced.—Forty years ago, we were accustomed to regard increase of population as increase of national prosperity; now such increase seems regarded as an obstruction.—Forty years ago we had no medical gentlemen in the parish; at present two are resident.—Since the draining of our soil and marshes obtained, the heron has nearly disappeared, and since our district became wooded, pheasants have reached our latitude.—Forty years ago, servants for husbandry were few in number, at present they seem redundant.—Formerly coal-hewers were inferior to other classes in morals and respectability, here they are now nearly on a level.—Forty, nay twenty, years ago, we had not one metalled road, now we have several.—Forty years ago, irregularity, multiplicity and confusion of weights and measures pervaded all transactions, now we have one philosophical and just standard.—Forty years ago, the ministers of the Established Church generally delivered all their discourses from the pulpit without reading; now they are generally read.—Forty years ago, land was sold in Fife at thirty-five years' purchase of the existing rental, now it sells at twenty-six years' purchase of the present rental.

The valued rent of this parish is upwards of L. 7000 Scotch. The present real rent is about L. 7000 Sterling.—Forty years ago, rents were all paid here in money; now they begin to be paid in grain, at the rate of the county fiars.—Forty years ago, resurrectionists, as they are called, were unheard of; now, even the poor



labourer is under the hardship of providing safes for the graves of his friends.—Forty years ago, thrashing machines were unknown to us; now, they are become general and so beneficial that it is difficult to believe how farming could be carried successfully on without them.—Forty years ago, the different ranks in society were distinguished from each other by their dress; at present there is little distinction in dress.—Forty-nine years ago, I was the youngest minister of the presbytery, now I am the oldest.

*Revised May 1836.*

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## PARISH OF BEATH.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES FERGUSSON, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish was anciently spelt *Baith*, and signifies, in Gaelic, birchwood,—of which there is not a vestige now to justify the etymology.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is about 4 miles long, and 3 broad, and is of an irregular figure. It is bounded on the west by the parish of Dunfermline; on the south by Dunfermline and Aberdour; on the south-east and east by Aberdour and Auchtertool; on the north-east by Auchterderran; on the north and north-west by Ballingry and Cleish.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its surface is rugged and hilly; but there are no mountains. The beautiful hill of Beath, in regard to the excellence of its pasture, and the fine and extensive view it affords, is well entitled to the description given of it in the last Statistical Account. The *Saxifraga granulata* is found on it in abundance.

Owing to the elevation of the parish, and to the quantity of wet land in and around it, the climate, during the greater part of the year, is cold and humid. The only lake in the parish is Loch Fitty (not Tilly, as, by mistake, in the last account.) It is about three miles in circumference, rather shallow, adorned with little scenery, and contains pike, perch, and muscle.

At present there are three collieries in operation in the parish. The rocks in the hills and plains are, so far as known, of whin and free or sandstones. Some years ago, a lime rock was discovered in the west end of the parish, and partially wrought. The soils, all untransported, are brown earth upon whinstone, till, and moss.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—There are thirteen land-owners connected with the parish, all of whom, except one, possess property in it above L. 50 a-year. The principal proprietors are, the Earl of Moray, patron; Mr Dewar; and the Lord Chief-Commissioner Adam. Several others have lands of considerable extent and value. Only five of the heritors are at present resident.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers, consisting of minutes of session, records of marriages, births and burials, have been pretty regularly kept. The earliest entries were in 1642, and were prefaced with a very curious and interesting account of the causes which led to the rebuilding of the church,—which it is thought proper here to subjoin.\*

\* “ *A short and fine Naration concerning the Kirk of Baith, 1640.*—The kirk of Baith, a most fitt and convenient place for the situation of a kirk, being upone the roade way, and in the just midis betwixt Kinross and Innerkethine. Sua it is to rememberit that tho’ it be amongst the smallest, yit the name of it is amongst the antientest paroches in Scotland. Wherefore, a most reverend and worthie brother, Mr William Scott, sometime minister at Couper, reported that the first place of meeting that ever the Protestant Lords of Scotland had for the covenante and Reformatione at the kirk of Baith. This kirk in some sorte myght be compared to Gideon’s fleece, which was dry, when all the earth was watered.

“ When all the congregations of Fyfe were planted, this poore kirk was neglected and overlooked, and lay desolate then fourteene yeeres, after the Reformatione eighty yeeres. The poore parochiners being always lyke wandering sheep without a sheeph-hard, and whairas they should have conveened to hear a pastoure preiche, the principal cause of the people’s meetinge, wes to heere a pyper play upone the Lord’s daye, which was the daye of thair profaine mirth, not being in the workes of thair calling. Which was the caus that Sathane had a most faire name amongst them, stirring many of them up to dancing, playing at foot-ball, and excessive drinking, falling out and wounding one another, which wes the exercise of the younger sort, and the older sort played at gems and the workes of their calling without any distinction of the weeke daye from the daye of the Lord, and thus they continued, as said is, the space of eighty yeeres: this poore kirk being always neglected, became a sheepe hous in the night.

“ And becaus some of the poore people desyred to have yr poore little ones (being young maydes for the most pairt) brought up at school, what abominations was committed by the profaine Mr, I will not expresse: let it suffice the world to know, that the poore criminall, after his flight, was overtaken and brought to justice, for such ane vile and hard misdemaner; this which hath been wreatten, may be sufficient to make any hart melt for the most abominable estate of this poore kirk. In end, recourse wes hadd to the Yerle of Moray, lord and patrone of the lands of the parroch, to try if it might pleis Lo. to kntribute any thing to the building of that poore kirk, or iff he would pittye the poore people, and such a long soul murder that hadd been amongst them. The Countess of Home, his mother-in-law, was also dealt with to the samine purpose, but both refuissed. Sua when that poore people hadd been so long excluded from all hopes to gett their kirk builded, or any pastoure to speake a word of comfort to the parochiner’s souls, it pleased the Lord to put it in the hart



## III.—POPULATION.

In 1821, the amount of population was 729. By the census of 1831, very accurately taken, it was 921,—males, 459; females, 462. Of this amount there were 23 above 70 years of age. About 400 of the population live in the villages of Keltie and Oakfield.

of Mr Alexander Collville of Blair, having no relatione to doe for this poore people, but being only their neere neighbour, and beholding from his own windowe thair pypping and dancing, revelling and deboshing, their drinking and excesse, thair ryote everie Sabbath day, was moved by the Lord, and mightilie stirred up to undertake something for that poore people, and having assembled some of the speciall men of the parroch, at the village of Sheills, sounded thair mindes, if they might be bold to adventure to assist and help him with horses for drawing of timber and stones, (he and they both fearing the oppositione and discountenance of the lord and patrone of the parroch,) the parrochiners present did give this comfortable answer, that they woud both doe and adventure to kntribute thair best endeavors with men and horses, for building of their kirk, but becaus of their povertie, they were not able to kntribute anie of their owne private monnie, but amongst others that were present, none was found more foreward with his horse and assistance than Mr Johne Hodge, tennent in Leuchat's Baith, of whome I made electione to oversee the worke and the workmen, and did presentlie advance him some monnie for that effect.

"It pleased the Lord, so he blessed our endeavors that the worke prospered in our hand, and was brought to great perfectione in a short tyme, even to the admiratione of the people and passengers, who marvelled to see the worke goe on so sudanlie, neither knowing the way nor the instruments. And becaus it wes impossible, when the walls were up to get the kirk slaitted in such haist, the slaittes being at Tippermoore, which was at sixtene miles distance; thairfor it wes thought expedient for the present yeere, that it should be sarked with dealles, which being done with very great diligence, I thought good to send for ane old reverend brother, Mr John Row Law, minister at Carnocke, who after some refusalls, without the consent of the minister of Aberdour, (becaus into his kirk, the parroches of Dalgetie and Baith were annexed,) he could not undertake to preach, yet after mucche intreattie he was moved to come to such ane effamished congregation, in such a retyred place. The people understanding that sermone was to be at the kirk of Baith so unexpectedlie, and so suddenlie builded; did resort from all places, and much out of everie sitie, being new fangled with such a suddan change, thronged in so to kirk, that thair wes scarce anie place left to raise up some height for a place to the pastoure. And while the pastoure was in a most moveing and elegant straine for the kindness and mercie of God to that people that hadd lived so long in darkness, it pleased the Lord out of his free and immense love to bring such a suddain rushe of joye upone my hart, that I had almost fainted, but in end remembering myseiffe, I was comforted to think that the Lord had shewed a pledge of his goodnesse towards me, and accepted of my weake and unworthie obedience, to make me instrumentall for the worke of his majestie. I shall not insist to speike anie thing at all of my actings and doings, or sufferings, to be instrumentall in the worke of the Lord, but one thing I must declare, that Sathane hath beene, is, and will be bussie against all those that will be instrumental for the service of God, so became he my enemy in stirring up some to scourge me with the tongue, and put grievous aspersions upone my name and reputatione; in stirring up some to slander mee, as iff I had interverted something that was given by some few friendes for that proud use. But I declare in the presence of God, to all after ages, that such reports are but false calumnies and lyes; thair wes never suche a thing as one penny interverted or withheld by me from the work of the Lord. And becaus my conscience beares mee witnesse of the honestie of my carriage therein, it is also borne in upon mee to pronounce from God, that he who devysed to scourge me with the tongue shall be punished without repentance. And more, to shew my integrity, where ane promise that ever I had in the worke of the Lord, was from a most religious Christiane, William Breggs of Athernie, and becaus I did alwayes rest confident of the certaintie of the helpe of such a religious man; I suspendit it last of all, and would not goe to visite this worthie man without the presence of ane elder, whom I chose to be John Hodge, who accompanied mee to Athernie, and when wee came to Bennochie, it was reported to us, that he was depairted this life, which wes so; and so wee were frustrat altogether of our greatest hopes. (Signed) Jo. HUNTER."

The number of families is 180, containing each, of individuals, on an average, somewhat more than 5; a fact, perhaps, rather uncommon; and to be accounted for by early marriages, chiefly among the colliers, who earn higher wages than any other class of labourers. There are 4 houses at present in progress of building; all the rest, amounting to 161, are inhabited. The increase of population is owing to the additional number of hands employed at the collieries, and to a system of feuing lately introduced.

The annual average of births for the last seven years, appearing from the parish records, was 15; of marriages, 5; and of deaths, 13. But, as the deaths of all who are interred in the churchyard are recorded, although some of them are from other parishes, and as some parents neglect to have the births of their children registered, the exact number of births and deaths cannot be ascertained.

In general the people enjoy the advantages and comforts suited to their stations in life. In dress and the decoration of their persons, they keep pace with the times. They are, upon the whole, moral and religious. There have been, as there still are, several instances of longevity among them.

During the last three years there have been 4 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—In this parish, there is not much land that is not capable of being rendered arable; and by far the greater part has been at one period under the plough. Of late years a good deal has been done in the way of reclaiming waste land, and improving such as had been neglected by bad husbandry; and the result has been a fair remuneration.

Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	- - - - -	5270 *
Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture,	- - - - -	516
Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture,	- - - - -	394 †
Number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted,	- - - - -	530

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as that can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of all kinds,	- - - - -	L. 5479 0 0
Potatoes, turnips, cabbages, &c.	- - - - -	2040 0 0

\* Although all this has been at one period in tillage, a considerable portion of it has been long in pasture, and, as such, is now of inferior quality.

† If the spirit for improvement at present manifested by the tenantry does not relax, all the improvable land will, in a few years, have been under crop.



Hay, . . . . .	L. 1055	0	0
Flax, . . . . .	32	0	0
Land in pasture, rating it at L. 2, 10s. per cow or full-grown ox, grazed, or that may be grazed for the season, . . . . .	2216	0	0
Gardens and orchards, . . . . .	55	0	0
Annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, (most of which are young,) and copse, . . . . .	150	0	0
Mines.—Amount of sales at the Kelty colliery from January 1834 to January 1835. The other two collieries have been at a stand for a year or two, . . . . .	2920	13	0
<hr/>			
Total yearly value of raw produce raised, . . . . .	L. 13947	13	0

*Rent of Land.*—The average price of land may be stated at about L. 1 per Scotch acre. The value of different parts of the same farm differs very widely. Several farms have been for many years under pasture for black cattle, and pay fully as well as in tillage. The state of farming is, upon the whole, rapidly improving, owing partly to the encouragement afforded by the landlords, and partly to a more judicious mode of husbandry, and greater industry on the part of the tenants. Paring and burning, draining, liming, and earlier sowing, are the more striking and beneficial improvements.

The farm-buildings are, in several instances, pretty good, and suited to the value of the farms and to the district. Those on the property of the Earl of Moray have been lately erected. That nobleman has also improved the appearance and value of his lands by judicious plantations. And it were much to be wished, that some of the other proprietors, whose lands afford abundant capability, would, in this respect, follow his Lordship's example, and that of the Lord Chief-Commissioner, by which means their own advantage would be promoted, and the parish be no longer proverbial for bleakness. The duration of leases is, in most cases, for nineteen years, which is considered to be favourable to the occupier. The productions of the parish are, oats, barley, wheat partially, peas, beans, potatoes, turnips, a little flax, and cultivated and meadow hay.\* A day-labourer earns from 1s. 6d. to 2s. a-day. Male farm-servants are hired at from L. 10 to L. 12 per annum; and female servants receive from L. 5 to L. 6 per annum.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—There are no market-towns in this parish. The nearest are Dunfermline and Kinross, each distant about

\* From the results of experiments made, for several years past, by the writer of this account, he has reason to believe that carrots sown in our kitchen gardens, about the middle of May, are much less liable to the depredations of the worm, than those sown at an earlier period. It will be an additional advantage to sow them in the beds in which leeks were reared the preceding year.

six miles from the centre of the parish. Blair-Adam Inn, in the parish of Cleish, is the post-office, nearly three miles from the manse. The great north road from Queensferry to Perth, one of the best in the kingdom, passes through the parish, a length of four miles. There are three public daily coaches, including the mail, travelling on it. The bridges are in good repair, and the parish is all enclosed and subdivided, chiefly with good stone fences, called Gallo-way dikes.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is the only place of public worship. Its situation is convenient for the population, but not so its size, affording accommodation to only 250 sitters. It is an old, cold, damp, fabric. In 1808, it underwent a repair, and stands greatly in need of another. If the heritors consulted their own interest, and the accommodation and comfort of the people, they would cause its foundation to be dug up.\*

In good weather the church is remarkably well attended. The average number of communicants is above 200, and the number is annually increasing. Of the population nearly 200, old and young, are Burgher Seceders, the only description of Dissenters in the parish. Their number has greatly diminished within the last twenty years.

The manse was built in 1801, and a small addition was made to it four years ago. The glebe consists of 8 acres, and may be worth from L. 16 to L. 20 yearly. The teinds are exhausted, and the stipend is the minimum.

*Education.*—The parochial school is the only one in the parish. Its situation is central. The usual branches of education are taught in it. For the last fourteen years, owing greatly to the superior merits of the teachers, Mr William Beatton, lately called to the parish of Kennoway, and his brother, who has succeeded him, it has been attended by an average of 100 scholars. The fees are, per quarter, for English reading, 2s. 6d.; reading and writing, 3s.; do. do. and arithmetic, 4s.; Latin and Greek, 5s. The school-master's house and school-room were lately erected, and are good and commodious. The salary is the maximum: the fees may amount to L. 30 per annum. There are very few persons in the parish above six years of age who cannot read. In general, the people are alive to the benefits of education. There are, however, some exceptions, chiefly among the colliers.

\* Since the above account was given in, a handsome and excellent church has been erected, calculated to afford ample accommodation to the parishioners, and which reflects great credit upon the liberality of the heritors.



Some years ago, Francis Berry, a native of the parish, and who spent the greater part of his life in it, in the capacity of a small farmer, (in consequence of the death of his only child, a student in divinity,) bequeathed a feu in land and houses, the fruit of honest industry, for educating poor children, natives of the parish. The property is subject to the liferent of his widow, an elderly woman. It is let in lease for L. 28, 10s. per annum. The kirk-session are appointed sole trustees.

*Poor.*—The maintenance of the poor has long been a light burden. At present there are only 5 on the roll, three of whom receive each 1s. a-week, and the other two, in more indigent circumstances, 1s. 9d. each. Their wants are supplied out of the ordinary collections, which amount to about L. 11 annually; the interest of L. 100 due by promissory-note to the session, and the dues upon marriages and burials. The poor evince no unnecessary disposition to solicit parochial aid.

*Inns.*—There are one inn and four public-houses in the parish, and their effects are notoriously injurious to the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—The fuel used is coal, of which there is great abundance at a reasonable price.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking variations between the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, consist in an improved mode of farming, better farm-buildings, plantations, collieries, roads, population, school, and number of resident heritors, which is smaller. The standard weights and measures are in use.

There is still much room for improvement in the way of draining, reclaiming waste land, and planting. What might be profitably done in this last respect, is sufficiently evinced in the extensive and thriving plantations on the estate of the Lord Chief-Commissioner, a gentleman to whose taste, liberality, and public spirit, this district, generally, is highly indebted.

*Given in April 1833, Revised April 1836.*

## PARISH OF DALGETY.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER WATT, A.M. MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—THIS parish is situated on the northern coast of the Frith of Forth. Its southern boundary stretches about 4 miles along the wooded broken line of beach, that lies betwixt the village of Aberdour and the borough of Inverkeithing. It is nearly of a triangular form, extending in length about 4 miles from south to north, and not exceeding in many places a mile in breadth. It is bounded by Inverkeithing on the west; by Aberdour on the east and north; and by a small part of the parish of Dunfermline on the north-west.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There is a gradual ascent from the southern to the northern extremity, which stands about 436 feet above the level of the sea. From some of the higher ground on the estates of Fordel and Cockairney, the views are very extensive. They command at one sweep the whole range of the opposite coast from Queensferry as far as the Isle of May.

It may be said that we have two distinct climates in this small parish. In the lower division on the sea coast, which is well wooded, and in a state of good cultivation, the thermometer generally stands some degrees higher than in the upper district, which contains an extensive coal-field, and the soil of which is of a much inferior quality. In spring, the whole parish, like most of those along the sea-coast, is much exposed to the chilling influence of the prevailing east winds. The inhabitants, however, are generally very healthy, and there is no disease peculiar to them except some cases of asthma and rheumatism amongst the colliers, which are occasioned by the nature of their occupation.

*Hydrography.*—There are no rivers in this parish. There is a lake, however, of considerable extent. It is about three-quarters of a mile in length, and a quarter of a mile in breadth. At the east end of it, stands the old mansion-house of Cockairney, the re-



sidence of Sir Robert Mowbray, Knight, one of the heritors of the parish. On the northern bank, is situated the old mansion-house of Otterston, whence the lake derives its name, which is at present occupied by Lady Torrens, widow of the late Sir Henry Torrens. The lake and all the lands of Otterston form part of the estate of Sir Robert Mowbray of Cockairney. The blending of hill and dale, of wood and water, in this spot, renders it a scene of no common beauty.

There is a picturesquely situated waterfall on the adjoining grounds of Fordel. The stream which forms it winds its course for a considerable way through a darkly wooded glen, where it meets with the outlet of water from the great drainage level of the Fordel colliery, and then rushes over a broken rocky precipice of about fifty feet in height. Near the termination of this glen there is a mineral well, a minute analysis of which is to be found in Professor Jameson's Philosophical Journal for the year 1829.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The minerals known in this parish belong to the secondary series of rocks; and, so far as they have yet been discovered, may be said to abound in sandstone, bituminous shale, quartz, rock-limestone, and coal. The general dip of the strata is north-east, varying, in some places, from the dislocations of the minerals by dikes, which, according to their magnitude, more or less derange and alter it. Sandstone abounds all over the parish; but it is of more value in the southern than in the northern division. About the centre of the parish there is a thick bed of exceedingly hard quartz rock. It does not appear at the surface, except in two or three places, being generally concealed by a thick covering of earth. Limestone, which constitutes the basis of the coal formation, extends regularly throughout the parish, under the coal. It is found about 50 fathoms underneath the lower bed of coal, and from the basin shape of the minerals, the lime seldom or ever makes its appearance at the surface; but it is to be found in considerable quantities, both to the east and west, in the adjoining parishes of Aberdour and Inverkeithing.

*Fordel coal-works.*—Coal, the mineral of the greatest importance, abounds in considerable quantities in this parish. The extensive coal-works on the estate of Fordel, the property of Admiral Sir P. C. H. Durham, G. C. B. form the principal feature of this parish, and the great source of its trade and revenue. The coal on the lands of Fordel has been wrought for nearly 240 years. This has been a valuable property; but its value is now much diminished, in con-

sequence of the great extent of coal which has been wrought out of it. As Sir Philip Durham, however, has in lease the adjoining coal-fields on the estate of Cuttlehill, it is certain that coal will be conveyed through the parish for upwards of 150 years to come. And even when it is exhausted, the extensive minerals to the north, in the neighbouring parish, will, in all probability, be brought through this parish to the shipping port of St David's. From a recent inspection of the strata throughout this parish, and, particularly, from a minute examination of that part of it connected with the mining operations, it is found that the coal-field is much intersected with dikes and dislocations, which very much elevate and depress the strata forming this extensive coal country.

From the harbour of St David's, the southern boundary of the parish, as far north as the drainage level of the Fordel colliery operations,—a distance of about two miles,—the strata appear somewhat regular, dipping to the north-east. They cannot, however, be correctly ascertained in many places, as they have a considerable cover of earth upon them. From the latter point, northwards, they can be most accurately traced.

The outlet of water from the drainage level of the Fordel colliery is 120 feet above the level of the sea, and it is continued northwards nearly three miles through the solid rock. During its course ten dikes are met with of various magnitudes; in some places they do not alter the strata many feet; in others, they are found 100 feet thick, and elevating the strata sixty fathoms. Their direction often varies as well as their angle of inclination from nearly a horizontal to a vertical position. The materials of which these dikes are composed are generally sandstone, more or less indurated with quartz and limestone.

From the point at which coal is first found, the surface rises gently northwards, till it reaches the height of 436 feet above the level of the sea; this forms the northern boundary, and the highest part of the parish. It is found as we proceed northwards, that the strata assumes a greater dip in some places, varying from 1 in 8 to 1 in 3. In very few instances, however, do these dikes deteriorate the coal in quality, but the reverse; for as the miner approaches these dikes, the coal becomes harder, and more difficult to work, and in many cases an extra expense is paid for labour. The coal mines in this parish were not wrought to any considerable extent until within the last thirty years, when the consumption of coal has been very much increased, particularly for steam naviga-



tion. And as this coal-field produces the finest coal for that purpose, the working of it has been much more extensively carried on. The depth of the mining operations at the northern boundary of the parish is 300 feet from the surface, and that of the main drainage level is only about 250 feet; consequently machinery is required to raise the water from the mines, a distance of about 50 feet, instead of which, had the level been carried duly horizontal, the whole of the coal now drained by machinery would have been level free. And thus had due regard been paid at first to the drainage level, the expensive machinery now erected on the works would, in a great measure, have been unnecessary.

The coal-field of this parish extends two miles north and south, and one mile east and west, and forms the basin or trough of the coal-fields in the neighbourhood. For, upon drawing a line in a north-eastern direction from the point at which coal is first found to the extremity of the parish, it appears that the coal and its accompanying strata uniformly rise to the east as well as to the west of that line. To the east it rises rapidly, and throws out the crop of the upper coals before it goes out of the parish; the under ones are found on the verge of the Aberdour parish. At every dike or dislocation of the strata northwards, the coals are thrown further east, until the same coals in quality, though not the same in number, or in thickness, are found to extend into Lochgelly parish, and so on eastwards, throughout the whole of that coal country.

To the westward of this line, the same takes place, but not so rapidly, and this forms the most interesting and valuable coal-field in the western district of Fife. The same dikes and coals can be traced with great regularity from the east of this, to the west of the parish of Dunfermline, with little or no variation in the line of bearing, although they are more or less depressed by the intersection of diagonal dikes changing the direction of the strata.

In order more fully to shew the metals passed through in the progress of sinking for coal, we shall here annex a correct section of the strata as taken from actual measurement.

*Section of a pit at Fordel Colliery.*

	Fath. Fect. In.				Fath. Ft. In.		
Surface sand and clay,	4	2	6	Dark-grey freestone,	2	1	8
White freestone,	1	2	0	Soft light freestone,	2	0	9
Dark yellow do.	0	2	3½	Blae,	0	2	10
Soft blae and bands,	1	4	0	Blawlowan coal,	1	0	3
Blue blae,	1	1	2	Grey freestone bands,	0	1	10
Dark grey freestone,	2	1	8½	Light yellow freestone,	1	2	6½
Do. with bands,	0	4	3	Dark-yellow do.	0	2	8
Yellow freestone,	1	3	5	Do. mixed with blae,	0	3	3½

	<i>Fath.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>In.</i>		<i>Fath.</i>	<i>Ft.</i>	<i>In.</i>
Lighter mixed with blae,	0	1	10½	Yellow freestone,	1	2	9
Very hard freestone,	0	5	4½	Blae,	0	4	6
Blae and bands,	0	1	8	Coalthief coal,	0	5	8
Mynheer coal,	0	4	0	Freestone post,	1	4	9
Do. hard grey freestone,	0	2	4	Grey bands,	0	3	0
Light do.	1	5	7½	White freestone,	0	3	0
Blae,	1	2	4½	Very hard do.	0	0	5
Grey freestone,	1	5	6	Coal,	0	1	3
Do.	0	2	5	Blae,	0	4	0
Very hard freestone,	1	1	8	White freestone,	1	3	6
Softer do.	0	2	7	Ironstone bands,	0	0	5
Blae,	0	3	9	Freestone,	2	4	7
Black blae,	1	0	5	Blae and bands,	1	0	2
Very hard do. bands,	0	5	2	Main splint coal,	0	4	9
Blae and freestone,	2	3	7				
Dark-grey bands,	0	2	8	Total depth,	49	2	0½

There are thus only four workable seams of coal, named the Blawlowan, Coalthief, Mynheer, and Splint.—The Blawlowan is a soft cubical coal, it is generally used in lime-works, burns slowly, and produces white ashes.—The Mynheer is an excellent splint coal, burns with little ashes, is used for steam-machinery, but it is best adapted for household purposes.—The Coalthief is a strong cubical coal, free of all iron pyrites, burns clean, works large, and is principally used by distillers and manufacturers.—The Main Splint is a very superior coal to the other three. It burns free of ashes, leaves a small cinder, is very bituminous, works large, and has an exceedingly strong flame when burning, and from its durability and superior quality, is considered the best in Scotland for steam navigation and household purposes, for which immense shipments are made all over the continent.

Having given a short account of the coal-field of this parish, and its connection with those of the adjoining parishes, we shall shortly state the quantity of coal still remaining to be wrought. This, we are sorry to say, is reduced to a comparatively small extent, as may be easily conceived from the length of time during which it has been wrought. There is, it is generally believed, coal to work on the Fordel estate for thirty years at a moderate rate, as there still remains one or two coal-fields untouched, but the mining apparatus not being directed in that quarter, it may be some time before they are explored. I am also inclined to think that there are several great coal seams throughout the parish, particularly in the southern division, and which may soon be examined, especially those lying in the direction of the strath, in front of Fordel House, where evident proofs of a coal formation have been traced. It may be sufficient at present to mention, that in the parishes of Aberdour, Dalgety, Inverkeithing, and Dunfermline, there are coal-fields



which will last many centuries at the present extent of sales, which may be estimated at nearly 230,000 tons.

The average annual sales from Fordel colliery may be estimated at nearly 70,000 tons. The mode by which the coals are conveyed to the shipping harbour is by a wooden railway laid with beech and fir, having wood-sleepers every two feet apart. The road is laid double, having one fir rail below, and a beech rail above. Waggon containing three tons are drawn by one and sometimes by two horses, to the shipping port of St David's, and emptied into the vessels by machines erected for that purpose. This waggon way is upheld at a very great expense; but extensive operations have been going on for some time, preparing a new line of road for an iron railway, which, when finished, will be an immense saving annually, independently of the greater facility and expedition with which shipments may then be made. The superior quality of the Fordel coal is now known over the whole of Europe, and being particularly adapted for steam navigation, it has gained an ascendancy over most of the Scotch and English coal for that purpose. Besides being so well adapted for all household uses, it is also much in request by bakers, brewers, manufacturers; and large exports are made to the continent and to America, which is in a great measure to be attributed to the exertions of the spirited proprietor of the works, Admiral Sir Philip Durham, G. C. B. who has used every means, and has spared no expense, in proving the superior qualities of the Fordel coal, especially for the purpose of raising steam.

In the present state of the coal trade in the river Forth, there is little encouragement to make any extensive improvements. It has undergone a complete change within the last twenty-five years. And this has been particularly the case since 1820, when a more extensive sale of English coal was introduced into the Scotch market. In 1824, the prices revived a little, which gave a new stimulus to the coal proprietors, but at present they are again much reduced.

The following are the prices at which coals are put on board vessels at the harbour of St David's from the Fordel colliery: Best splint great coal, 9s. per ton; chew coal, 6s. 6d.; mixed household coal, 6s. 6d.; small coal, 3s. 10d. And even at these very reduced prices it is difficult to effect the ordinary sales; and in many cases coals are sold at the cost price.

*Salt-works.*—In connection with the colliery and railway for the exportation of coal at St David's, there are very extensive salt-works upon the best principles. There is a steam-engine for drawing the

salt water at flood tides into a large reservoir, which contains as much water as is necessary for a week's consumption. This completely secures the deposition of all mud and sand, so that the water becomes quite pure before it is used for making salt. There are large salt pans, which make annually about 30,000 bushels, the sales of which amount to about L. 1600.

*Harbours.*—The harbour at St David's seems originally to have been very indifferently constructed, as appears from the remains of the old pier. Within these four years, the proprietor, Sir Philip Durham, has made great improvements, at an expense of nearly L. 2000, so that vessels of 450 to 500 tons burden can come in and load with safety, and command from seventeen to eighteen feet of water. These extensive additions were much wanted, without which it would have been impossible to have effected the present extensive sales. All that is now wanting is the finishing of the new railway to make Fordel colliery, with the harbour of St David's, one of the most complete coal-works in Scotland. The annual circulation of money at the Fordel and Cuttlehill collieries, and at the salt-works at St David's may be estimated at nearly L. 22,000. The number of men, women, and children who derive their support from the above works exceeds 800, or nearly two-thirds of the whole parish. When we consider the various advantages of which such works are productive to the parish, and to the neighbourhood, they reflect the highest honour on their benevolent proprietor, who for many years has received little emolument from them. The number of houses occupied by the families of work-people belonging to the colliery is about 130. The number of men employed is 100; unmarried men and boys, 186; women and girls, 120; making a total of 536, actually employed. This number is independent of those who are engaged in the shipping of coals, in the salt-works, and in driving waggons, which require upwards of 50 horses.

These people are paid every fourteen days. Their wages are very good; a collier, when the work is going on well, can earn about 3s. per day. They have likewise very comfortable houses and gardens, which are kept up at the expense of the proprietor. The only fossil remains found in the strata are some simple petrifications of a species of fern now extinct. There are also some bivalves, and other shells amongst the argillaceous schistus. In the upper part of the parish, there are frequently found trunks of trees, next to the strata beneath the moss, petrified into a soft sandstone;



the outer part of them is generally very perfect, and is covered with coaly matter.

The soil in this parish is very various. In the southern parts it consists generally of a deep strong loam, mixed with clay. The sloping banks lying to the south are of a lighter and drier nature. Where the coal formation commences the soil is generally wet and stiff, and there are also a few mossy swamps covered with heath.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The whole lands in the parish belong to three proprietors, who are generally resident, viz. the Right Honourable the Earl of Moray, who resides at Donibristle; Admiral Sir P. C. H. Durham, G. C. B. at Fordel House; and Sir Robert Mowbray, Knight, at Cockairney. There has lately been built on the grounds of the Earl of Moray, a dwelling-house, which is at present occupied by P. Anislie, Esq. who acts as his Lordship's Commissioner. It has been named St Colme House, being situated nearly opposite the island of that name in the Frith of Forth.

## III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population of the parish was stated to be 761. Since that period it has been nearly doubled. The principal cause of its increase is to be attributed to the extension of the Fordel coal-works, and to several small feus, which have been granted by the proprietor on his lands in the neighbourhood of the colliery. The population in the southern division of the parish has greatly diminished of late. The old village of Dalgety, along with the parish school, and some other houses which were situated near the old church, have all been removed, as the properties in that neighbourhood have gradually come into the possession of the Earl of Moray, and have been thrown into his Lordship's extensive enclosures.

The number of individuals residing in villages is as follows:

At St David's, a small village on the sea coast, .	142
Hill End, only a small part of which is in the parish, .	43
At Crossgates, . . . . .	176
At Fordel Square, . . . . .	141
Rows of Collier houses, . . . . .	798
Population of the parish in 1801, -	890
1811, -	816
1821, -	912
1831, -	1300

There has been no obituary kept in the parish for the last fifty years.

The average number of marriages for the last seven years is	11
persons under 15 years of age,	540
betwixt 15 and 30,	357
30 and 50,	248
50 and 70,	118
upwards of 70,	37

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Total 1300

Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	11
females above 45,	13
The average number of children in each family may be stated at	4
The number of insane, blind, and dumb,	4
Number of families in the parish,	253
chiefly employed in agriculture,	41
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	39

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The people in general are very sober and industrious. Those of them who are not employed in the coal-works consist principally of labourers and farm-servants. The colliers who compose such a large proportion of the parishioners are, with a few exceptions, the most sober and civilized of that class of the community any where to be found. They are quite a distinct class from the agricultural population. Their prejudices, their domestic habits, and even their style of dress are altogether peculiar. So completely have they kept themselves apart, and so much have intermarriages prevailed, that for centuries back the same family names have generally obtained amongst them. The ameliorated condition of the Fordel colliers, when compared with that of many others, is principally to be traced to the effects of education. Before the parish school was removed to their immediate neighbourhood, where it has been for upwards of thirty years, it was their uniform practice to maintain by subscription a teacher amongst themselves. This fact may be of some importance to those proprietors, many of whose colliers are so far behind the other classes of the community, both as regards general education and moral improvement.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—Agriculture is generally in a very improved state in this parish. Its situation affords the farmer many advantages. There is abundance of lime in the neighbourhood. Fuel is very moderate in price, and manure to any extent can be obtained from Leith by water carriage. As the soil, especially toward the northern parts of the parish, is naturally wet, draining has been much resorted to, and with the most beneficial effects. Such a complete change have some of the lands on the estate of Fordel undergone that a farm, which twenty years ago brought only a rental of L. 15, now



lets for L. 240. This estate has also been much improved and sheltered by extensive thriving plantations. There are about 40 acres of moss and swampy ground in the northern division of the parish, a part of which is grazed during the summer months.

The number of acres in the parish which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage is about 1005. There are about 240 acres of wood. The average rent of land is from L. 2 to L. 3 per acre, and in the northern division from L. 1, 10s. to L. 2.

*Produce.*—The average value of raw produce raised in the parish is the following :

White crop,	-	-	-	-	L. 4930
Pasture,	-	-	-	-	1030
Hay,	-	-	-	-	690
Potatoes,	-	-	-	-	1465
Turnips,	-	-	-	-	340
Salt-works,	-	-	-	-	1600
Sales at Fordel colliery,	-	-	-	-	28000

Total yearly value of raw produce,	-	-	-	-	L. 38055
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#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The nearest market-town is Inverkeithing. There are no villages in the parish except the small shipping port of St David's.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—A very handsome parish church was erected in the year 1830. The style of the building is Gothic. It is seated to accommodate 500 individuals. It does great honour to the liberality and taste of the heritors, being one of the most handsome small country churches in Scotland; and furnishes a proof of the great improvement which has lately taken place in the style of ecclesiastical architecture. It is more conveniently situated for some of the parishioners than the old church, which stood close to the sea side, while the most populous part of the parish is about four miles distant. The site of the new church is about a mile to the north of the former one, close to the public road, which lies betwixt Aberdour and Inverkeithing. It is still, however, about three miles from the great body of the parishioners.

There are a number of individuals really attached to the Establishment, who are thus unwillingly necessitated to become dissenters, on account of the inconvenient distance at which they are placed from the parish church.

The old church is a very ancient building. It was for many years in a great state of disrepair, and was never well adapted, from its uncentrical situation, to be a place of worship for the parish. It stands about two miles from Donibristle House, close to the sea

shore. It was formerly a Chapel of Ease to the monastery on the Island of Inch Colme, when the seat of the Earl of Moray belonged to the abbots of that monastery. On one of the small galleries is rudely emblazoned the heraldic arms of the Earl of Dunfermline, a family now extinct. Chancellor Seaton, who was created Earl of Dunfermline in 1605, lies interred in a part of the area of the church, along with some other individuals of distinction.

A substantial and well-finished new manse and offices have also been built within the last five years. They are situated on the glebe, and are a few minutes walk from the new church. The glebe is 12 acres in extent, and lets for about L. 1, 12s. per acre. The teinds of the parish are exhausted; their amount is about 15 chalders.

There are no dissenting chapels in the parish, and those of the parishioners who do not belong to the parish church, attend a Burgher meeting-house either at Inverkeithing or at Crossgates. The latter place is very conveniently situated for the colliers, being only about a mile distant from most of them. The number of individuals attending the Established Church is about 400.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary and the legal accommodation. The other school is supported entirely by the fees of the scholars, and a free school-room. The expense of education at the parish school is, 8s. for reading; writing, 10s.; and arithmetic, 12s.,—which are the only branches taught. There are no persons in the parish from six years and upwards who cannot read.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons upon the poor roll is from 25 to 30, and the sum distributed is from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week. The annual disbursement is about L. 40. It does not appear that compulsory assessments have ever been introduced into this parish. The three heritors have been in the habit for a considerable period of assessing themselves to make up any deficiencies in the poor's funds. Besides the weekly collections, there is the interest of L. 130 arising from legacies left by individuals to the poor of the parish. Since the new church was opened, however, the weekly collections have been more than sufficient to meet all the demands upon the poor funds, though the number of paupers is rather upon the increase. The heritors had formerly to contribute about L. 10 annually. At present the rare, though much-wished for state of things here obtains, viz. the voluntary Sabbath day offerings of the parishioners supporting all the poor,



and the aged, and the infirm amongst them. This is principally to be assigned to the regularity of the attendance of the heritors' families, and of others, since a comfortable place of worship has been provided. The state of complete disrepair in which the old church remained for upwards of thirty years had the effect of alienating many individuals from the Establishment, who could easily obtain comfortable accommodation in the numerous dissenting chapels in the neighbourhood. And thus many who during life had weekly contributed toward the support of a dissenting place of worship, and towards the maintenance of its poor, have themselves ultimately become applicants for parochial relief. This has had the effect of greatly increasing the demand upon the heritors; and had they not come forward and assessed themselves, and had not many cases of indigence been supplied by the private benevolence of the proprietor of the Fordel coal-works, this parish might long ere now have been subject to all the numerous evils which never fail to attend that self-increasing evil, a legal assessment, and from which, we trust, it is now in the way of farther and farther receding. And we are persuaded that in many country parishes this evil might have been prevented, had the non-resident heritors voluntarily contributed to the parish funds such a sum as might have been reasonably expected from them, had they been weekly in their places in the parish church. \* Had this much to be deprecated system ever been introduced into this parish, its principal cause must have been traced to the long period during which no suitable accommodation was provided for the people in their parish church. Much evil results from want of due attention to the comfort of the parishioners in this respect. It not only increases the demand upon heritors to supply their diminished poor's funds, and may thus lead to the introduction of legal assessments, but it goes directly to foster those loose principles, and to induce those habits of idleness and dissipation which give rise to pauperism itself. For an excuse is hereby furnished to the parishioners for withdrawing themselves from the salutary influence of the weekly lessons and ministrations of the gospel, which every enlightened mind will acknowledge are the most efficient of all means for pro-

\* This statement is fully corroborated by an experiment made in one of the parishes in East Lothian, where, by pursuing a plan somewhat similar to that which we have suggested, legal assessments were not only prevented, but actually abolished after they had obtained a long and firm footing in the parish.—See an interesting work on this subject, entitled "Considerations addressed to the Heritors and Kirk-sessions of Scotland," by the late Rev. W. Stark, Dirleton.

moting industry, frugality, and prudence amongst our peasantry, and for cherishing that spirit of honest independence which will ever associate degradation with a state of pauperism. We cannot say that any disposition is evinced on the part of the people to refrain from applying for parochial relief. A strict attention, however, is paid to withholding assistance from those who have any private sources of charity from which supplies ought to be afforded them.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In a small parish like this, where there are only three proprietors, and where one-half of the parish belongs to a single nobleman, few changes of any consequence have taken place within the last forty years. The effects of steam-navigation upon our population are very perceptible. In consequence of the increased facilities of communication with the metropolis, their original character has given place, in many respects, to the habits and tastes which more peculiarly distinguish those who are living in the immediate vicinity of a large town. Nothing would be of greater advantage to our coal population than a well-regulated savings bank. A want of prudence and foresight seems to be a very prominent feature in the character of colliers. However great may be their wages, they are sure to make their weekly expenditure keep pace with them. Any system, therefore, which would introduce habits of economy amongst them, might render our colliers the most independent and comfortable class of the labouring community.

*Revised June 1836.*



## PARISH OF KINGLASSIE.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. J. M. CUNNYNGHAME, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—WHILE some have supposed that the village after which the parish is called, derives its appellation from a spring denominated St Glass's Well, others, with apparently greater reason, have traced the name to Gaelic words signifying the *head of gray land*. This idea seems to be corroborated by the large extent of inundated, marshy, and mixed surface which, although much reduced from its former size, still stretches itself to the immediate vicinity of the village. The preferable conjecture concerning the derivation of the name acquires additional support from the circumstance, that a locality, somewhat elevated above the channel, along which the water runs from the swamp alluded to, has received the appropriate designation of *Finglassie*, signifying the *termination of the gray land*, or mixed bog.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish of Kinglassie, somewhat irregular in figure, is computed to be about 5 miles and 3 furlongs long, by the road leading through the village from west to east. The breadth varies from 1 mile to  $3\frac{1}{2}$ . The total surface comprises about 5800 Scots acres. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Markinch and Dysart; on the south by the latter, but chiefly by that of Auchterderran, also stretching along the western limits to the north-west corner, which is touched by parts of Portmoak and Ballingry; and its northern extremity is washed by the Leven, on the opposite side of which the parishes of Portmoak and Leslie meet. From this point of junction, Portmoak takes a small jutting to the south bank of the Leven.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Three ridges, of varied height, steepness, and width; run towards the east, where they assume a lower elevation. From the northern limits, a very considerable acclivity arises, which extends along the whole length of the parish. The lands of Goatmilk, situated on this range, contain two

proximate hills of no very diminutive size. A square tower, 52 feet from the base, was erected, in the year 1812, on the summit of one of those heights, and marks at a great distance the hill of Redwells, whose southern banks slope towards the village of Kinglassie, in a declivity of about 160 feet. The ground on the south of the village, forming the middle parallel ridge, rises into a height of considerable, though somewhat inferior altitude, on both sides of which the surface gradually subsides into gentle inclinations or narrow planes, whose elevation above the level of the sea is about 200 feet.

*Soil and Climate.*—Considerable variety characterizes both the substratum and the surface. Clay, loam, and gravel are often intermingled. The greater proportion of soil is strong close-bottomed clay. The remainder is chiefly diversified by moss and sand. Although some localities seem peculiarly subjected to stagnant damp, or exposed to the severities of the weather, yet, upon the whole, the climate is decidedly wholesome and desirable.

*Hydrography.*—The Leven, proceeding from the renowned loch of that name in the north-west vicinity, runs eastward, and forms, as has been already mentioned, the northern boundary of the parish. Bennarty hill, in the contiguous neighbourhood, sends forth a stream which, acquiring accession from Bog Lochty, the marshy ground to which allusion has been made, is known by the name of Lochty. This rivulet, intersecting the village of Kinglassie, glides along the dale situated betwixt the northern and midland heights. The Orr, which takes its rise from the loch in Ballingry parish, bearing that designation, traverses the southern level. These small waters can furnish the angler with perch, pike, and eels. They empty themselves into the Leven at a very small distance beyond the eastern boundary of the parish. A diminutive streamlet called Sauchie, which pervades a few fields in the immediate vicinity of the village, speedily joins Lochty. There are many springs, both perennial and occasional.

*Mineralogy.*—Although, at no very remote period, coal-works were in operation, yet during several preceding years that occupation has been entirely suspended within the parish. There is reason to believe, however, that were coal pits less numerous in the neighbourhood, a copious supply of this fossil could be obtained. In various parts, ironstone, the constant companion of coal, is found. Limestone was lately wrought on a moderate scale. Whinstone rock is very abundant: indeed, with rare exceptions, the whole



soil overlays it. Freestone quarries have been opened. Red rotten rock prevails in one or two small localities.

*Zoology.*—Deer are found in the parish. Pheasants are plentiful. The woodcock takes up his abode during the winter months. The fowl familiarly called the cock of the north is generally considered as the forerunner of stormy weather.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners, &c.*—In a strictly literal sense, there are 15 proprietors, from whose lands the minister's stipend is levied. But as one estate is the joint property of the four family representatives of the antecedent owner, the number of heritors may be said to be 12. The principal of these, in point of valued and real rental, are Robert Ferguson of Raith, Esq.; the elder son, a minor, of the deceased John Aytoun of Inchdairnie, Esq.; Lieutenant-General Balfour of Balbirnie; and the Right Honourable the Earl of Rothes, patron. There are numerous feudal possessions, the more ancient of which generally pay to the superior the yearly acknowledgment of  $7\frac{1}{2}$ d. per fall, or L. 5 per acre; while those of recent grant are held at the advanced rate of 1s. per fall, or L. 8 per acre. The feus in the village, amounting to about 40, hold of General Balfour, who, by ancestral purchase, is proprietor of various lands, which belonged to William Aytoun Douglas, Esq.

*Eminent Men.*—To those who are conversant with the historical circumstances connected with the origin of the Secession church, the name of the Rev. John Currie cannot be unknown. That devout man was inducted to the pastoral charge of this parish, on the 28th September 1705, and died on the 22d September 1765, in the ninety-second year of his age, and within a few days of the completion of the sixtieth year of his ministry. He was the intimate friend and epistolary correspondent of Ebenezer and Ralph Erskine, who were both grieved and astonished that they could not persuade him to act in accordance with those views of ecclesiastical discipline and economy which had led them and others to renounce subjection to the judicatories of the national religious establishment. His opinions concerning the popular prerogative in regard to the election of Christian pastors are set forth in a treatise designated "*Vox Populi vox Dei.*"—Whatever estimate may be formed of that production, or of other writings which emanated from his pen, it is undeniable that the venerable author was eminently characterized by the purity and simplicity of his manners, and by the pious and affectionate as-

siduity which accompanied the discharge of his pastoral duties. During the last fifteen years of his life, his ministerial labours were lightened, and his tottering steps sustained by the faithful and unwearied services of his son William, who had been ordained assistant and successor on the 13th March 1750. In less than five years the son, after a protracted illness, followed the father to the grave, in the forty-ninth year of his age.

*Antiquities.*—A pillar of hewn stone, 4 feet 9 inches in height above the socket in which it is embossed,  $7\frac{1}{2}$  inches broad, and 11 inches thick, has, from time immemorial, stood upon the farm of Dogtown. It bears the remaining marks of some hieroglyphical emblems or ornamental sculpture in relief, which have been defaced by the “peltings of the pitiless storm,” or the rude touch of destructive man. Antiquarians have conjectured that this column was set up by the Danes, to commemorate the exploits of some illustrious warrior who had fallen on the spot, during an engagement consequent upon their hostile invasion of Fife, in the reign of Constantine II.; while others have supposed that it was reared by the Scots to perpetuate their successful resistance of the foreign foe, who had encamped on both sides of the Leven. We learn from the page of the historian, that those depredators having been prevented from uniting their forces, in consequence of the sudden and extensive swelling of the river, were speedily and effectually routed by the Scots. Goat-milk-hill constituted one of the links in the chain of Danish forts, which stretched from Fifeness to Stirling. While those positions were occupied by the invaders, a mill was erected on the Leven, which retains the name of Mill-danes. During the recent operations of levelling the channel of that water, several heads of iron spears, a Roman sword, and battle-axe presented themselves. A dagger of antique appearance, 18 inches long, having a wooden handle, partially overlaid with brass, was lately found in a draw-well on the farm of west Finglassie, which was reopened after having remained shut, so far as can be ascertained, for centuries.

*Parochial Registers.*—The most remote records of baptisms and sessional procedure bear the date of A. D. 1627. Those of marriage contracts commence twenty years subsequent to that period. Instead of classification having been always duly observed, there is an occasional commingling of matters belonging to these separate departments. Unless by those familiar with obsolete manuscripts, some of the ancient registers are not legible. For many years past,



discipline proceedings, births, marriages, and poors' funds have had each their distinct and appropriate register.

### III.—POPULATION.

The official report of Dr Webster, eighty years ago, states that the total number of inhabitants then amounted to 998. The Parliamentary census of 1821 represents the population at 1027; and that of 1831 at 958, of whom there are 488 males, and 470 females. According to this last return, there are 224 families resident under 198 roofs. Of those families, 66 are employed in agriculture; 153 in manufactures, trade, and handicraft; and 5 in other avocations. It may not be irrelevant to mention, that, during a course of pastoral visitation, which was made in the months of February and March of the present-year, when a minute numerical survey was taken, the total population was ascertained to be 1050 souls. Of that number, 755 are above twelve years of age, and 295 have not yet reached that period.

*Resident Heritors.*—The country seat of one of the principal heritors is usually occupied by himself and family during one-half of the year. With this exception, and that of a small proprietor, there are no residing heritors.

The annual average of births during the last seven years has been about 26; deaths, 13; of marriages, 11.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—Sobriety, industry, and respect for religion are qualities, which, with few exceptions, mark the great mass of the population. Considerable attention is paid to neatness of dress and cleanliness of personal appearance. And in such estimation is neatness of apparel held, that the want of raiment equal in quality to that of a next door neighbour is, in some instances, viewed as a valid apology for absence from church, not only when there exists no decided disinclination, but, on the contrary, a seeming anxiety to attend. While a commendable regard to personal and domestic spruceness is often observable, yet some of those families and individuals occasionally discover a neglect of various essential branches of comfort and convenience. Now and then the stagnant puddle and the nauseous dunghill form a striking contrast to the interior aspect of the contiguous dwelling.—On old handsel Monday, there is a general cessation of professional labour; neighbourly visits are interchanged, and raffles are practised.

During the three years preceding the 1st June last, the number of illegitimate births in the parish was 9.

## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 34 farms, the largest of which amounts in whole to 377 Scots acres. No other exceeds 234. Three of these are below 60 acres. Smaller portions of land are also occupied upon nineteen years leases. Besides, two farms, whose steadings are beyond its limits, stretch themselves into the parish. Such has been the encouragement given by considerate and liberal landlords to skilful and industrious tenants, that the quantity of ground now brought under the plough can scarcely be estimated below 5200 Scots acres. 356 acres are covered with thriving plantations. The remaining 244 are unarable, being either overlaid with rock, steep on the surface, or laid out in roads. Notwithstanding the difficulties which discourage improvements, a considerable deal of soil might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land, or to that which is already covered with wood. The prevailing trees are larch, spruce, fir, and ash. One considerable plantation abounds with excellent beech and oak.

*Rent.*—As variety characterises the soil, a diversity of rents likewise obtains. The extreme rates at which land is let per Scots acre are, L. 1 and L. 3, 15s. It is a small proportion, however, which is leased at either of these sums; L. 1, 9s. 9d. per Scots acre may be considered as the average rent of arable ground. Pasturage for a cow generally costs L. 3, 10s., and that for a sheep L. 1, 5s. Grass parks usually bring about L. 2 per acre.

*Draining.*—During the last twenty years nearly 300 acres have been reclaimed. The cultivators of the soil have of late been particularly careful in drawing off that superabundance of moisture which is so inimical to the production of healthy and luxuriant crops. In practical attention to this department of rural economy, the late Mr Aytoun of Inchdairnie was very active, judicious, and successful. The depth of the close drains made under his direction was determined by the nature of the soil which they were intended to improve. Some of those on strong clay are eight feet below the surface.

*Live-stock, &c.*—Almost the whole cattle are of the pure Fife breed, of which the black horned are the most prevalent. The number of calves annually reared may be estimated at 300.

In regard to farm-steadings, material improvements have taken place. Towards their tenantry, landlords have in this and other respects manifested a judicious and benevolent regard.

With very rare exceptions, the different farms have thrashing-



mills attached ; three of these are propelled by water, and one by steam. This last, seven horse power, has been in operation two years.

Iron ploughs are almost universally used. The mode of husbandry varies according to circumstances. Some farmers apportion their land in the following ratio : two-sevenths, oats ; one-seventh wheat and barley ; one-seventh green crop and summer fallow ; three-sevenths grass pastured, sometimes for three years. One boll is the usual quantity of oats and wheat allotted to the Scots acre, from which the return is often tenfold. Three firlots constitute the ordinary measure of barley sown on the acre, which not seldom issue in the production of ten bolls. The rearing of flax, which for a series of years had been very much given up, has of late become more frequent and remunerative. Three mills are employed in manufacturing this article.

*Rate of Wages.*—A male farm-servant who is married usually receives as his anual payment L. 11 or L. 12 in money,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, and about a Scots pint of milk daily, together with the use of a dwelling house and a small garden plot. The additional privilege of twenty-four falls of potatoe ground is, in most cases, enjoyed. Full-grown young men are often hired on nearly the same pecuniary terms as the former, and receive their victuals in their master's house. The ordinary wages of a domestic female servant are L. 5, 10s. Harvest reapers are almost always engaged in the course of the preceding winter, and become bound to remain with their respective employers twenty-four lawful days, or until the labours peculiar to autumn shall be completed. The rate at which a man is hired for that season is commonly L. 2, 10s., and a woman L. 1, 10s. or L. 1, 15s. with lodging and victuals. Shearers whose houses are at hand receive a little more money. The highest pay given to a male is L. 3, and to a female L. 2. A hay-cutter earns 2s. 6d. daily. The summer hire of an ordinary labourer is 1s. 8d. ; women employed in field labour usually gain 9d.

*Produce.*—

Grain of all kinds, . . . . .	L. 14970	0	0
Potatoes, turnips, &c. . . . .	4080	0	0
Hay, whether meadow or cultivated, . . . . .	2500	0	0
Flax, . . . . .	270	0	0
Land in pasture, rating it at L. 3, 10s per cow or full-grown ox, grazed, or that may be grazed for the season ;—at L. 1, 5s. per ewe or full-grown sheep, pastured, or that may be pastured for the year, . . . . .	2032	10	0
Gardens and orchards, . . . . .	180	0	0
Annual and periodical thinning of woods, plantations, and copse, . . . . .	536	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce raised . . . . .	L. 24568	10	0
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## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Village and Means of Communication.*—The only village in the parish is that of Kinglassie, whose present population is 375. Its inhabitants consist principally of weavers, and other handicraft tradesmen. About twenty-four looms are now in use,—several of which are plied by females. The comparatively small income arising from that occupation induced, of late years, a considerable proportion of men to exchange it for agricultural employments. There are 3 public-houses, and the same number of small grocery shops. Brewing of small-beer, ale, and porter is regularly carried on. Bread and butcher-meat are constantly supplied by professional tradesmen. Two fairs occur in the course of the year;—one on the third Wednesday of May, old style; the other on the Thursday immediately preceding Michaelmas, old style. An agricultural association, formed upwards of twenty years ago, holds its annual meeting here in the month of August. It consists of about forty practical farmers; and its objects are countenanced by the membership of several landed proprietors. Last season there were exhibited 110 head of cattle and 43 horses.

The village lies about six miles to the northward of Kirkaldy, which is the post-town. Communication with that burgh is enjoyed by means of several individuals, whose business as carriers repeatedly leads them thither in the course of the week. Easy access to metal has, in connection with other circumstances, produced a very material improvement on the state of the principal roads. But although much has been done in this respect, it must be confessed, that not a little remains unaccomplished. There are no toll-bars within the parochial precincts. The east end of the parish is intersected by the road leading from Kirkaldy to Cupar, on which coaches betwixt Edinburgh and Dundee run daily. It has lately been also traversed regularly by a coach betwixt the metropolis and Perth. There are about twelve small stone bridges.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The only place of public worship is the parish church. Situated within a mile of the south-west boundary, and distant several miles from a considerable proportion of the population, its locality subjects not a few to great inconvenience. But although some parishioners are so remote as nearly five miles; yet as the village, where the church is placed, contains a third of the population, and as its immediate vicinity is interspersed with several agricultural hamlets, the ecclesiastical edifice may, upon the whole, be viewed as standing in the most eligible spot. The



exterior of the fabric has a heavy appearance, being nearly 90 feet long, and of very subordinate and disproportionate dimensions in height and breadth. The east gable, and part of the contiguous side walls are supposed to have stood for at least two centuries. The remainder was rebuilt in 1773, when the whole received a new roof. For many subsequent years, however, the church continued with unplastered walls, and without any ceiling. About fifteen years ago, the inside underwent such repairs as have rendered it a very comfortable place of worship. There are sittings for nearly 350. The pews are allocated among the heritors according to their respective valued rents, and are occupied, without any pecuniary remuneration, by tenants, feuars, and other classes of persons. A distinct appropriation of a greater number of sittings for such parishioners as are not connected with landed proprietors by any peculiar tie would certainly be beneficial;—for it cannot be denied, that, although no seat rents are exacted or paid, yet the fear of being viewed as unwelcome intruders, by those who have obtained a previous occupancy, may sometimes operate as a discouragement of regular attendance. Fully four-fifths of the people professedly belong to the Established Church. Of these about 350 are communicants. The dissenting or seceding portion of the population are generally connected either with the United Secession church, or with the religious denomination adhering to the Associate Synod of Original Seceders. A very limited number are of the Relief and Baptist persuasions.

The manse, which is hard by the church, was built in 1774, and was repaired in 1818. The glebe contains a little more than 6 Scots acres. The stipend, augmented in 1823, is 15 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, payable according to the highest county fiars. The sum of L. 8, 6s. 8d. is paid under the name of communion element money.\*

The parochial register of 1682 acknowledges the receipt of four silver communion cups as the donation of Mr Melvill, formerly minister of this parish. Those cups are still used in the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper. Each bears the following inscription:—"Haec quatuor pocula ejusdem ponderis et mensuræ ecclesiæ de Kinglassie sacravit Mr Thomas Melvill non ita, pridem pastor ibidem."

*Education.*—The parochial school is situated in the village.

\* The teinds of Kinglassie were, A. D. 1234, mortified by the Bishop of St Andrews, "Deo St Margarete et monachis de Dunfermline," as the records of that abbacy bear.

Besides the maximum salary, amounting to L. 34, 4s. 4½d., along with a dwelling-house and garden, the schoolmaster annually receives six bolls of oats, the bequest of an ancient proprietor. This seminary is at present attended by about 100 scholars. The ordinary branches of education, including English grammar and the elementary principles of general knowledge, are taught with diligence and ability. Means of instruction in mathematics and classical learning are also furnished. The principles of revealed religion are sedulously instilled. Forty are employed in arithmetic, 20 more are learning to write. The teacher may receive about L. 34 a-year of fees.\*

The village has also a small female school, in which knitting and sewing are taught for a very moderate sum.

On the southern boundary, there is a school, which is pretty well attended. Its erection proceeded from the kindness of Mr Ferguson of Raith, who has allotted to its teacher a free dwelling-house and garden, with a yearly pecuniary allowance.

So commendably desirous are parents of furnishing their children with the means of education, that there is hardly an instance in which an individual beyond six years of age is unable to read more or less accurately. To the same praiseworthy feeling, is to be ascribed the comparatively small number among the youthful portion of the population, altogether unskilled in the arts of writing and arithmetic. Children are usually sent to school about five years of age; although in several instances, distance of locality and badness of roads forbid that early initiation. But in these and other cases, some elementary training is for the most part practised at home.

A Sabbath school in the village is numerously attended, and judiciously conducted.

*Library.*—Access to a small parochial library is obtainable at a very moderate rate; and through the generosity of a benevolently disposed lady, the youth belonging to the village Sunday school are gratuitously furnished with the weekly perusal of interesting and instructive books.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Various individuals receive a fixed monthly aliment, others get only occasional aid, and several house

\* The schoolmaster lately retired from the charge of the school on account of his advanced age; but is secured for life in the enjoyment of the legal salary, and of the house and garden. He is entitled to the trifling sums which arise from making up the Parliamentary census and registering voters for a Member of Parliament. The acting teacher, beside the school fees, receives from the heritors annually L. 20, and draws the fiars price of the six bolls of oats to which reference has been made.



rents are annually paid, in whole or in part. The first of these classes is composed at present of 12 families, more or less numerous, and requiring of course different degrees of pecuniary relief. Temporary supplies are afforded to others when visited with sickness, or otherwise deprived of the means of earning a livelihood. This description of beneficiaries generally comprises about 15 families. On these different objects of parochial charity, about L. 72 *communibus annis* are laid out in the course of the year.

The funds from which the poor receive relief arise from church door collections, land, marriages, mortcloths, erection of tombstones, and interest on bank deposits. As the means of supply are very much strengthened by the *second* of these sources, the weekly contributions (not generally amounting to L. 13 per annum) are less liberal than in other circumstances they would be. Although the parishioners are the reverse of wealthy, yet handsome sums have been collected at church for pious and benevolent purposes. The landed property, to which reference has been made, lies in the parish of Abernethy, Perthshire, and was purchased in the year 1726 for 6600 merks. What rent was paid at that period is not exactly ascertained; but in terms of a tack granted in 1762, it was fixed at 200 merks. It was subsequently raised to L. 36, and afterwards to L. 50, with the additional obligation of discharging public burdens to an amount somewhat exceeding L. 6. The immediately succeeding lease of the poors' farm, extending to nineteen years from Martinmas 1835, stipulates that the tenant shall annually pay L. 100, and advance the various legal assessments due from the land, for which, on the production of discharges, he is entitled to discount out of the rent. As these imposts are considerable, and as the joint administrators for the poor incurred great expense in building a dwelling-house and stone fences, and in otherwise enhancing the value of the property, the pecuniary return has been much abridged. Beside emergencies, the regular annual drawbacks on the farm amount to about L. 10.

The only marriage fee payable to the poors' fund is 2s. when the bride's residence is within the parish. Three parish mortcloths are severally lent at 5s., 3s. 6d., and 2s. The united salaries of synod, presbytery, and session-clerks, precentor, and kirk-officer amount to L. 10, 10s.

In several instances of known or suspected indigence, a strong aversion to receive parochial aid has been occasionally evinced,—while, in cases less urgent, a very different spirit has appeared.

## MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Among the many improvements which have taken place since the last Statistical Account was drawn up,—the great accession made to the cultivated land,—the appropriation of unproductive wastes to valuable plantations, and the increased attention paid to draining, are deserving of high commendation. In consequence of the recent deepening and widening of the Leven water-course, the circumjacent soil has been rendered far less succulent, and more susceptible of melioration. Similar beneficial alterations are in progress on a part of the Lochty. Although there is no savings' bank in the parish, yet some individuals with laudable prudence and propriety, deposit a portion of their earnings in some of those excellent institutions which happily exist in the vicinity.

*June 1836.*

## PARISH OF DUNBOG.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ADAM CAIRNS, D.D. MINISTER.

## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish is variously written in the ancient records as Dinbug, Denbuig, Dunbog, Dunbolg, and Dunboig. It is evidently of Celtic derivation, and may be translated "*the bog of the hill.*" Like all Celtic names, it is descriptive of the general character of the district. Within the memory of man, the low-lying part of the parish was an extensive marsh, which ran along the base of the highest hill in the north of Fife, anciently denominated Dunmore, or the great hill, though now known by the Saxon name Norman's Law. The Gaelic appellation, however, is still given to the property to which the mountain belongs, and from this we infer that *Dunbog* is the original and correct name of the parish.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish of Dunbog is of irregular figure and diminutive extent. It ranges from south-east to north-west, its greatest length not exceeding 4 miles; its extreme breadth being about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , and its least not more, perhaps,



than half a mile. On the north it is bounded by the parish of Flisk; on the east by a section of Abdie; on the south by Monimail; and on the west by Abdie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish consists of two ridges or prolongations of two chains of hills that intersect this portion of Fife; and of the valley enclosed between them. The northern ridge is a continuation of Norman's-law. It is cultivated to the top, and produces every description of grain of excellent quality. From the farm-house of Higham, which is perched on the summit, it descends precipitously to the level carse land that borders the Tay from Newburgh to Birkhill, and which is generally known by the name of the Barony. A narrow stripe of Dunbog parish reaches the banks of the river, to the westward of Balinbriech Castle, and is called Higham *Plouts*. From any point of this northern elevation, the prospect that meets the view is of equal grandeur and beauty. The eye from this commanding position takes in a vast extent of country, diversified with all the features of the most interesting scenery, on a scale of unusual magnitude. The rugged Grampians fill up the horizon to the north, towering above the intervening range of the Sidlaws, which form the southern boundary of Strathmore. To the westward, the eye follows the windings of the Tay, till it is lost behind a projecting shoulder of the hill of Kinnoul, and surveys almost with the same glance the valley of the Earn intersected by its shining river. Opposite, is spread out the Carse of Gowrie, smooth and level as a floor, and confessedly one of the most fertile districts of Great Britain; and to the east appears the flourishing town of Dundee, and the Tay, now increased to an estuary, mingling its waters with those of the German Ocean.

The southern ridge, again, is, at least in the parish of Dunbog, of greater altitude than the one to the north. Generally speaking, it is uncultivated and almost barren. Patches of it have indeed, of late years, been brought under tillage by the use of bone manure; but improvement in this way seems to be carried as far as nature will allow; the prevailing character of the hill being rocky and sterile. The greatest, and perhaps the only, improvement of which these dreary heights are susceptible, is that which would be accomplished by planting them with wood; and it is impossible not to regret, and that deeply, that this very obvious and simple improvement had not been attended to long ago. The valley included between these hills is composed of excellent soil, pro-

ducing abundant crops of wheat, barley, oats. What was formerly a noxious morass is now good and valuable land. The exact elevation of the hills above the level of the sea has not been ascertained with perfect accuracy, but the extreme height is computed to be about 500 feet.

The climate is mild and salubrious, and no better proof of this can be adduced than the robust health of the inhabitants, and the great old age to which many of them attain.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The hills and the basin that lies between them are composed of whinstone or trap rock. The dip of such parts as have been exposed to view is nearly vertical. On the very summit of the hill, rolled blocks of granite are met with, some of them of considerable size. In the valley, the whinstone is covered by a rich black mould of no great depth, and through which the rock pierces in numerous places, forming barren spots, or *snobs*, in the midst of the best fields. The greatest portion of the soil in the parish is of this sort, resting immediately on the rock, or on a bed of gravel interposed. We have indeed a few fields of a clayey texture, and towards the east the soil becomes of much sharper quality, though equally productive. From the nature of the subsoil, the ground is easily drained, and is therefore dry and early. A considerable part of the arable ground consists of the reclaimed bog. This great improvement was effected about thirty years ago by the united contributions of the proprietors through whose domains it ran. Previous to the execution of this measure, an extensive tract of ground was covered with brushwood, with large stagnant pools of bog water; and in the more favourable spaces, with a coarse and rank grass, which afforded a scanty nourishment to the few half-starved cattle that waded about in search of subsistence. It is now converted into fruitful corn-fields. The soil, however, is soft or mossy, and not well qualified for growing wheat. The subsoil is various. In some places, it is cold clay, in others a hard till, but generally it is composed of sand and gravel. In this mossy soil, there are still found pieces of oak trees, black as ebony, but otherwise in a state of excellent preservation, and which must in all probability have lain there for many centuries.

*Zoology.*—There is nothing remarkable in the zoology of this parish. It may perhaps be worthy of notice that a pair of starlings built their nest and brought out their young last summer in the shrubbery of Dunbog House. The young birds were taken from the nest, when nearly fledged, and are still alive in the neighbour-



hood, amusing their captors with their mimic song. A few years ago, a fine specimen of the *Strix flammea*, or white owl, was caught in this vicinity, and is now stuffed and in possession of the author. It is so very rare in this quarter, that no person could give it a name, or say they had ever seen such a bird before. The specimen, however, though full-grown, is evidently a young bird; and we have no doubt that the white owl, which is very common in many parts of England, and not by any means a stranger in Scotland, had bred in the woods both of Dunbog and Ayton, when there was more shelter for it than there is now. A few roe-deer frequent the hills and plantations, and are known to breed here; but they are so destructive to the young corns that they will not be permitted to increase to any extent. Besides these, we have the usual sorts of game, but not in such abundance as to hurt the interests of the farmer.

*Botany.*—There is very little wood in the parish. Did it possess the benefit of a resident proprietor, this glaring defect would speedily be remedied. The greater portion of the parish belongs to Lord Dundas, who has of course little personal interest in ornamental improvement. But it is impossible to look on the naked hills, overrun with gorse and bracken, without indulging a wish to see them clothed and beautified with forest trees. In their present state, they are comparatively worthless, but were they covered with wood, they would not only become of much greater value to the proprietors in the course of a few years, but they would afford shelter both to the flocks and subjacent fields, and sensibly ameliorate the climate. At no distant period, the valley of Dunbog was pretty well wooded; but now little remains except within the pleasure ground of the old mansion-house. Even there, the trees are rapidly decaying, and a few years more will witness their total disappearance. The kinds that seem to thrive best are the plane, the ash, and the elm.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only historical notice of this parish that we are acquainted with, is contained in Sibbald's History of Fife, first published in 1682. In a book entitled "*Reliquiæ Divi Andreae*," by Martine of Clermont, who appears to have been secretary to Archbishop Sharpe, there are allusions to persons and places in the parish, which are of some use in illustrating its condition at that distant time.

*Family of Barclay of Collairney.*—The most ancient and honourable name connected with the history of Dunbog is that of the family of Barclay, who seem to have been proprietors

of Collairney for many ages—it is presumed, for not less a period than 500 years. We find in a list of the Lords of the Regalities within Fife in the reign of Charles II., that Barclay of Collairney was heritable bailie of the regality of Lindores, while the other jurisdictions were in the hands of the Marquis of Tweeddale, Lords Balmerino and Anstruther, and Sir Thomas Hope of Craighall. The possession of this office implied the existence of great personal influence or high rank, while it conferred civil authority of the most varied and extensive description. This once powerful family is now extinct; their name is scarcely known. About forty years ago, the estate was purchased from the last of the Barclays, by the late Dr Francis Balfour of Fernie, whose son inherits it at the present moment. The Castle of Collairney is now in ruins, though enough remains to attest its original magnitude. In the only tower that has survived the wreck of time, and the despoiling hand of modern improvement, there are two small rooms, the roofs of which are divided into numerous compartments, in which are painted in vivid colours the armorial bearings of the old chivalry of Scotland. The mottos as well as the devices of a few are yet distinctly legible. But it cannot be expected that they will remain long uneffaced, as no sufficient care can be now taken to preserve them from perishing. In the appendix to Sibbald's history, there is a list of those natives of Fife who had risen to distinction in literature or science. Among others he mentions "the famous William Barclay, (father of John,) Professor of the Laws at Angiers, who derives his pedigree from Barclay of Collairney in this shire."

*Estate of Dunbog.*—The next place of consequence in the parish is the estate and mansion-house of Dunbog. This property formed in remote times a part of the extensive barony of Balinbriech, which belonged to the family of Rothes. It subsequently passed into the hands of Lord Home. In the reign of James IV., Alexander Lord Home sold it to David Bethune of Criech, in whose family it remained till 1658, when it was sold to James Bethune of Balfour, an elder branch of the same house. After passing through several other hands, it was purchased in 1694 by Major Henry Balfour of Starr, who forfeited in the Rebellion of 1715. It was restored, however, to his son, and finally disposed of in 1766, to Sir Lawrence Dundas, to whose descendant Lord Dundas it now belongs, and again forms a part of the barony of Balinbriech. The vulgar tradition of the country as-



signs the building of the house to Cardinal Bethune of St Andrews. There is every reason to believe that it was erected by a Bethune of Balfour, of which house the celebrated Cardinal was a member. But as a decided proof that neither the Cardinal nor his uncle David Bethune, his predecessor in the archbishoprick, and who was also a son of one of the lairds of Balfour, had any thing to do with the erection of the mansion-house of Dunbog, it is sufficient to state, that the Cardinal was put to death in 1546, nearly a century before this property came into the possession of his family. Long before the time of which we now speak, the monks of the abbacy of Balmerino had a small building or preceptory on the site of the present house of Dunbog. It was called the preceptory of Gadvan, tenanted in general by two or three of the brotherhood, whose chief occupation we presume to have been the culture of some 24 acres of ground attached to their cell. A small portion of this land is comprehended in the glebe—but it is principally laid out in the garden and enclosures of Dunbog. Sibbald mentions also, that the parish church of Dunbog was given by Alexander Cumin Earl of Buchan, to the abbacy of Aberbrothock, in the reign of King Alexander II. There was a considerable village here, in which a weekly market was held within the memory of man. But it has totally vanished before the rapid extension of the farming system.

The parish is divided among three proprietors,—Lord Dundas, Balfour of Fernie, and Joseph Francis Murray of Ayton.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers extend no farther back than the year 1666. The first entry is dated September 23d of that year. From that period they have been kept with tolerable accuracy. The records are not very full, but they are sometimes interesting, as illustrative of the manners of a former age, of the comprehensive charity and national usefulness of the Established Church. It is impossible to glance over them without a feeling of surprise, at the frequency and largeness of parochial contributions to a great variety of benevolent purposes. Not satisfied with the comfortable maintenance of their own poor,—with relieving every unfortunate person that applied to them for a little aid,—with paying their proportion of the expense incurred by the education and support of the presbytery bursar,—we find the session sending collections to the most distant parts of Scotland, to assist in repairing the damage occasioned by fire,) at that time a very frequent disaster,) in alleviating the misery of the victims of such calamities,—in building or improving harbours, bridges, and public

works of a like nature,—and in ransoming those of our countrymen who had been carried into a terrible slavery by the Sallee rovers or Turkish corsairs. Towards the close of the seventeenth century we find such entries as the following: “Given out to ane indigent gentleman 6 B. Given to ane dumb man 4 B. Given to ane poor sojer 1 B. A collection for ane Pollonian minister 4 B. Given to a ship-broken man 4 B. To ane indigent gentlewoman 10 B. To a deposed minister’s wife 6 B. To a distressed minister L. 1, 8s. To ane Episcopal minister called James Spark, who came from Ireland, 12 B. To Mr John Constantine, a Neapolitan and Capuchin friar, who had renounced Poperie, as he said, 12 B. To a suppliant John Lauder, 12 B, having lost 25,000 merks in ane ship coming from France to Greenock.” Of another sort, we have such entries as these: “1671. Given to John Rule and John Cunninham, two men that had their houses burnt at Sligo, 12 sh. 1675, December 25, a voluntary contribution for rebuilding of the town of Kelso, which was burnt down.” Some years after a collection is made to assist in rebuilding Newburgh, which had been burnt down. The instances of relief granted to individual sufferers by fire are almost without number. Of a class still more interesting, we may venture to give a few specimens. “In 1678, February 10, the minister did intimate a voluntar contribution this day eight days for the relief of some Montrose seamen taken by the Turks.” Again, October 3d, 1680, “There was two acts read for a voluntar contribution, the one in favour of John Atchison, skipper in Pittenweem, his mate, Alexander Black, ten mariners and two passengers, taken by Turkish men of war, and carried up to Sallee and there ever since slaves. The other in favour of Robert Angus, skipper in Burntisland, who was taken by a Turkish man of war belonging to Algiers and was kept as a slave since.”—The Barbary corsairs seem to have been the terror and scourge of British sailors in the seventeenth century. A few years in advance we fall on the traces of a new enemy. “1707, July 20, Given to George Hamilton, a man taken by the French pirates, and retaken by the Dutch, and who had five children, 10sh.” Again “November 30, this day there was given to James Forbes and his wife, in their distress, they being robbed by the French pirates, 12 B.” But it is curious and instructive to remark how effectually the church was made to promote the general interests of the country. For example, in 1677, September 16, the minister “read an order of the privy-council, for a contribution this day eight days, for help-



ing the harbour of Eyemouth." Again, in 1682, "A voluntary contribution is ordered for building a stone bridge over the water of Ness, at Inverness." And again in the same year, we find three acts of the privy-council quoted, ordering collections in favour of "the harbour at Burntisland, to repair it; in favour of Dumbarton, to erect a bridge across the water of Leven; and in favour of my Lord Pitsligo, for repairing the harbour at ———." There are many more of the same kind; but the above will amply suffice to shew the many practical benefits the church has been the instrument of conferring on almost every town and sea-port of our native land. It was the practice in the seventeenth century for parties intending to be married, to enter into a public contract, and to deposit with the kirk-session a sum of money in pledge of their sincerity and good behaviour. The form observed is recorded with amusing simplicity. As, for instance, "Contracted George Brewhouse and Helen Kinloch, and consigned their pledges according to order, that they should marry within the space of forty days, and carry themselves civillee till their marriage." It did happen occasionally that the pledges were forfeited for lack of the requisite civility, and sometimes too for other reasons, as, for instance, on the 28th of February 1675, there is given to the bursar "be Andro Law, 4 lbs. being his daughter's pledge, which was given because of her fail in not taking of William Buist in marriage, after being thrice proclaimed." The oldest register is full of proclamations, read by order of the King and Council, which forcibly mark the unquiet aspect of the times, and the growing jealousy of the government, as the eventful era of the Revolution approached. We shall conclude this branch of our account, by extracting an entry of a peculiar interest: "1678, May 18, a proclamation was read from the pulpit by the minister, ordaining the whole heritors within the parish to cause their tenants, cottars, servants, and all others on their grounds to compear at Cupar on Friday the 23d of May instant, to clear and vindicate themselves from the late murder of my Lord Archbishop of St Andrews."

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of this parish has gradually but regularly declined since the end of the last century. At that time the population was nearly 400. By the census of 1831, it amounted to no more than 195, and this year it has been reduced to 170 of all ages, which we sincerely hope will prove its minimum. This rapid decrease is to be attributed to the extinction of the village; and

the absorption of the small farms. There is now only one farm where formerly there were three or four. That the depopulating system has been carried much too far is now painfully evident to every one connected with agriculture. The farmers not only experience a difficulty in procuring labourers to work the green crop, but they find it impossible to get them at any price, and must have recourse to some unusual means of obtaining an adequate supply. The average number of births since my induction does not exceed 8 per annum; of marriages not more than 4; of deaths about the same number.

Number of persons under 15 years of age,	67
between 15 and 30,	25
30 and 50,	55
50 and 70,	12
upwards of 70,	11
	<hr/> 170

There are no heritors or families of independent fortune resident in the parish. There are 42 families altogether.

There are 42 inhabited houses, besides 4 bothies.

*Habits and Character of the People.*—The farmers are an enlightened, active, and enterprising body of men, who embrace every opportunity of extending their knowledge of the important subjects connected with the cultivation of the soil, and eagerly adopt every suggestion that may conduce to the improvement of the rapidly advancing science of husbandry. Perhaps no class of men is more free from prejudices,—more unaffectedly kind,—more sound and steady in their principles,—and full of solid and useful information, than that of the farmers of Fifeshire. Besides these, the only other class of people belonging to this parish is that of their dependents or ploughmen. Speaking generally, we would say of the married ploughmen, that they are a quiet, sober, and industrious race. Their lot is one of incessant toil, alleviated by few advantages. Their ordinary food consists of oatmeal and sweet milk, with potatoes and occasionally pork. While young they enjoy uninterrupted health, and exhibit in their form all the appearances of robust and sinewy vigour. But long before old age has arrived, most of them, from perpetual exposure to the weather, are crippled with violent rheumatism. But no class of men, we are persuaded, labours under more blighting evils than does that of our ploughmen. Their education, both religious and intellectual, is exceedingly neglected from their earliest youth. There may be



found a few bright exceptions to the prevailing character of the body; but it is a melancholy truth that this interesting race of our people has been allowed to sink into a state of great ignorance and debasement. One chief cause of this calamity, we do not hesitate to say, is the practice universal in Fife, of making the young unmarried men live together in bothies. No sooner are boys capable of attending cattle in the fields, than they are sent from their father's house,—consigned to these wretched bothies,—and left in the midst of dangers to their own will. The results are grievous, though not more so than might be anticipated. In these hovels the wicked very speedily corrupt the good. The old ensnare the young; and the hardened profligate leaves no effort untried to seduce the scrupulous and timid to imitate his reckless example. Until this horrid system be abolished, it will be in vain to expect any happy alteration in the character and condition of our ploughmen. Another grand cause of this flagrant evil is to be found in the fluctuating and wandering lives of the ploughmen themselves. The married men frequently, the unmarried always, *flit* at the end of one year's service. They thus acquire vagrant habits and uncontrollable minds. They are never long enough in one place to form useful connections,—to feel themselves influenced and benefited by the exertions of the minister,—or to receive any sufficient advantage to their children from the care and superintendence of a parochial teacher. They thus virtually cut themselves off from all the blessings of Christianity and civilization, and in a land of light are literally roaming about in darkness. That an evil so virulent and so widely diffused as this can be soon or easily remedied, is not to be believed. But were the masters and clergy to unite in a zealous endeavour to reclaim to better habits the labouring class of our people, they would, we have no doubt, do much good even to the present generation; and, at all events, they would commence a work of improvement, which another and a more fortunate age would carry on and complete.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—There are in the parish about 1820 acres imperial of arable land; about 270 of hill pasture or waste ground; and about 30 under wood. The average rent of the arable land is about L. 2 per acre; but this varies in the majority of cases with the price of grain, as a considerable proportion of the rental is determined by the fiars of the county. The wages of unmarried ploughmen are L. 11 per annum and their board. Married men

receive in money L. 9, a house, a bit of garden-ground, milk and meal, 9 bolls of potatoes, and their coals driven from the pit.

*Sheep and Cattle.*—There is no particular species of sheep or cattle reared in the parish. The tenants buy in sheep, in the autumn, to put on the stubbles, and to feed off on turnip during the winter and following spring. The sheep are generally Cheviots, with a sprinkling of black-faced. This practice is universal, and is now carried to a great extent. By the use of bone-dust, turnips can now be raised, where previously cultivation was either very difficult or altogether impossible. But where turnips can be thus raised, the eating them off with sheep thoroughly enriches the soil, and secures invariably an abundant after-crop. The cattle are very much mixed; so much, indeed, that it would be no easy matter to say what breed predominates. For many years, the old Falkland breed of cattle fell into general disrepute. Short-horns were introduced; and in several instances, were and are still raised in high perfection. The opinion was, that they fattened more easily than the native cattle, and at an earlier age, and therefore were a profitable stock to the farmer. This opinion, however, is beginning to be questioned. It is now thought by many that the old Fife breed have as many good qualities as the short-horns, and are a much less hazardous stock. That they feed to as great a weight as the short-horns after they are five years old is well known; and eminent judges say, that, by proper attention and care, they may be brought to fatten at as early an age. There is, however, great difficulty experienced in obtaining pure blood.

The state of husbandry is very good, as good as any where in Scotland. A six-shift rotation is pursued in this neighbourhood, viz. summer fallow or potatoes, wheat, green crop, barley, grass, and then oats. The great defect is the want of fences. The fields are all open and unenclosed. This is a serious hinderance in the way of improvement. The land requires rest, for it has been over-cropped; the farmer is most anxious to reap the advantages promised by sheep husbandry; but neither of these objects can be attained until the land is properly enclosed.

The leases universally extend to a period of nineteen years; and under the system of farming which has prevailed up to the present time, a term of such duration was equally convenient for the landlord and tenant. But now that a great and decided improvement in the mode of farming has taken place, and is increasing rapidly in all the purely agricultural districts, it will be expedient and



equitable to give a considerable extension to the period of a lease. It is on every account desirable that the tenant should enjoy at least three, or perhaps four, returns of his rotation. But if by allowing the fields to lie in grass for two or three years, he extend his rotation from five or six, to seven or eight years, he cannot receive this advantage unless his lease be for twenty-four years, instead of nineteen. No sound objection, as far as we can judge, can be offered to this proposed alteration on the part of landlords,—because rents being now very generally paid according to the fiars, the landlords will always share in any rise that takes place in the value of farm produce, and because the land, under the new system of resting for three years out of eight, would always be kept in the highest order.

*The average amount of raw produce.—*

The gross amount of all descriptions of grain raised annually in the parish	
may be estimated at 8336 bolls, which will average	L.8336
Potatoes and turnips grown in the fields, at	2765
Grass at	606

Total, L. 11,707

The gross rental of the parish will average nearly L. 3000.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Newburgh is the nearest market and post-town, being distant about four miles.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the centre of the parish, and at a convenient distance from the remotest houses. It was built in 1803, and is in excellent repair. It is seated for 200, allowing eighteen inches to a seat. The sittings are all free. The manse was built in 1792. A considerable addition was made to it fourteen years ago. It is both comfortable and commodious. The glebe consists of about 5 acres imperial of good land. The stipend is 14 chalders of barley, bear, meal, and oats ; but nearly L. 70 of it is paid in money. There is not a dissenting family in the parish. The farm-servants, with very few exceptions, all belong to the Established church. They change every year, yet there is never above one or two individuals among them that are members of any other denomination, which may be received as a decided proof that the whole body of the agricultural population are still attached to the Establishment.

The average number of communicants is 135, which number comprehends a good many from the adjoining parishes of Flisk and Abdie, who always attend on ordinances in the church of Dunbog. The annual amount of collections for the poor do not exceed

L. 12. We have contributed liberally to the schemes of the General Assembly for education in the Highlands of Scotland, and for the propagation of the Gospel in India.

*Education.*—There is only one school in the parish. The ordinary branches of instruction are taught. The salary is the maximum. The fees are small, and do not produce above L. 15 per annum. There is no person in the parish unable to read and write, but very many who read and write very ill.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor roll is at present a heavy one. We have many aged persons, and two families of orphan children. There are 13 in the receipt of a weekly aliment. We very seldom give the allowance in money, but authorize the tenant under whom the paupers reside, to give as much meal and potatoes as will keep them with comfort. Our annual outlay is nearly L. 30. Of this sum we have about L. 12 from church collections,—the rest is drawn from money belonging to the poor.

*Fuel.*—The only fuel used in this neighbourhood is coal, which is driven from the mouth of the pit. The nearest mines are those of Coul and Balbirnie, about nine miles distant. The fuel from both is good, and the price is moderate.

July 1836.

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## PARISH OF LEUCHARS.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID WATSON, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE ancient name of the parish seems to have been Lough-yards, which is now changed to Leuchars. The low and level grounds, extending for miles to the east and west of the village, were under water for the greater part of the year, and might well be considered a loch before the lands were drained. The elevated ground in the immediate vicinity might be the yards attached to the village. According to some, Leuchars is a Celtic word, and signifies a rushy or marshy flat. Sibbald says, the name is “a Locro, Pictorum magnate ejusdem possessore.”

*Extent, Boundaries.*—This parish, from north-east to south-west,



extends 9 miles ; its greatest breadth from north-west to south-east is 5 miles. It is bounded by the bay of St Andrews, on the east ; the river Eden, on the south ; by the parishes of Dairsie and Logie, on the west ; by Forgan and Ferry-Port-on-Craig, on the north ; and is of a very irregular figure.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the parish is that of an extensive flat rather bare of wood, for many square miles,—not exceeding 15 feet in elevation above the level of the sea. As it verges westward, however, the ground rises gradually, till it reaches the top of the range of hills which separates it from Logie, when its elevation may be about 250 or 300 feet above the level of the sea. These hills are a branch of the terminating range of the Ochils, and are called Lucklaw, Airdit, and Craigfoodie. Of these, the summit of Airdit only is in this parish ; but the whole range, of four miles extent, forms a beautiful boundary and a shelter to the level ground on the south-east. The land is now well drained both by deep and surface draining ; and the lighter land, at the east and north sides of the parish, is well enclosed for sheep husbandry, which has prevailed of late to a considerable extent, and is found a great improvement for such soils.

The west division of the parish contains six farms. These are on elevated ground, inclining with a gentle slope, and are composed of soils consisting of clay, soft loam, and gravel. The soil in which gravel abounds, notwithstanding the thorough draining to which it has been subjected, retains much of its former spongy and wet character.

The sea shore is flat and sandy. The tide retires from the shore about half a-mile on ebbing. There is no alluvial soil deposited by the Eden ; but the sand banks are always on the increase. The bar of sand at its mouth is dangerous for shipping ; and, the noise with which the motion of the tide over it, is frequently accompanied, indicates a coming or retiring storm.

*Hydrography.*—The river Eden, which forms the southern boundary for four or five miles, is navigable as far as the Guard bridge. Here is a small harbour, which, from its commodious situation, serves as the emporium of this part of the country. At spring-tides, vessels of considerable burden can make their way to it without difficulty. At the Guard bridge, a few salmon trouts are caught in autumn. Near the mouth of the river, are mussel beds of considerable value. These are let by the proprietors for a period of four or five years, to a tenant who pays every attention to their cultivation and

propagation. These mussel beds furnish bait to many fishers along the east coast of Scotland.

The other streams are the Moultry, which traverses the parish in a direction from north to south, discharging itself into the Eden, and the Monzie burn, flowing from the west, and joining the Moultry. On both of these streams are meal and barley mills.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—There is nothing remarkable as to the geology of the parish. The whole of the extensive flat known by the name of the Tents moor seems, from the appearance of its surface, to have been abandoned by the German Ocean at no very remote period. On advancing westward from the Tents moor to the Moultry, the character of the soil improves, till we find extensive beds of strong blue clay. In various parts of the Tents moor, frequent bores have been sunk to a considerable depth; but by these nothing has been discovered but the same indurated sand by which this vast plain is so uniformly characterized. It is supposed that, a good way beneath the surface, a subordinate range of the prevailing rock of the high ground district to the north-west, which is whinstone, runs across the Tents moor in an eastern direction. This whinstone affords numerous excellent quarries, and is much esteemed both for the purposes of building and road-metalling.

Lucklaw hill is composed of rocks of the trap formation. Augite greenstone, traversed by ill-defined veins of coarse calcareous spar, forms one prominent member in its composition, and felspar porphyry another. This felspar porphyry is well exhibited by a cut which was made by the proprietor, on the face of the hill, many years ago, with a view to quarry it. Quarrying operations are no longer conducted, though this rock, from its extreme solidity and durability, cannot fail to be esteemed of considerable importance in an economical point of view.

Within a quarter of a mile of the Eden, on the farm of Brocklay, is a stratum of new red sandstone, which, from the coarseness of its texture, and the imperfect consolidation of its component parts, is little used as a building material. It is of a brick colour, and bears the marks of a rapid deposition from water, with the materials of each successive deposit distinctly traceable. Vegetable impressions have been discovered, associated with this rock. The specimens which have been procured, we believe, are of the fern species; but those that have been obtained are few.

Deer's horns have been dug up in the Tents moor. Fossil remains of oaks of a large species have been found in the alluvial



lands situated round the village. These were found to be in a very entire state, and useful for domestic purposes.

Every variety of soil, from the richest loam and clay, to the poorest sand or moorish clay, is found in this parish; but no marl, lime, or coal. This parish seems to have been cultivated from the earliest times. Its productiveness is best evidenced by its affording teinds to the ministers of other parishes, even to the parish of Dull, in Perthshire.

*Wood.*—In the north-east part of the parish, where the soil is extremely light and sandy, the Scotch pines grow to a considerable size. This parish does not abound much in hard wood; that which seems to thrive best, is the ash. Some fine old trees are found at Earlshall, Pitlethie, Pitcullo, and Airdit.

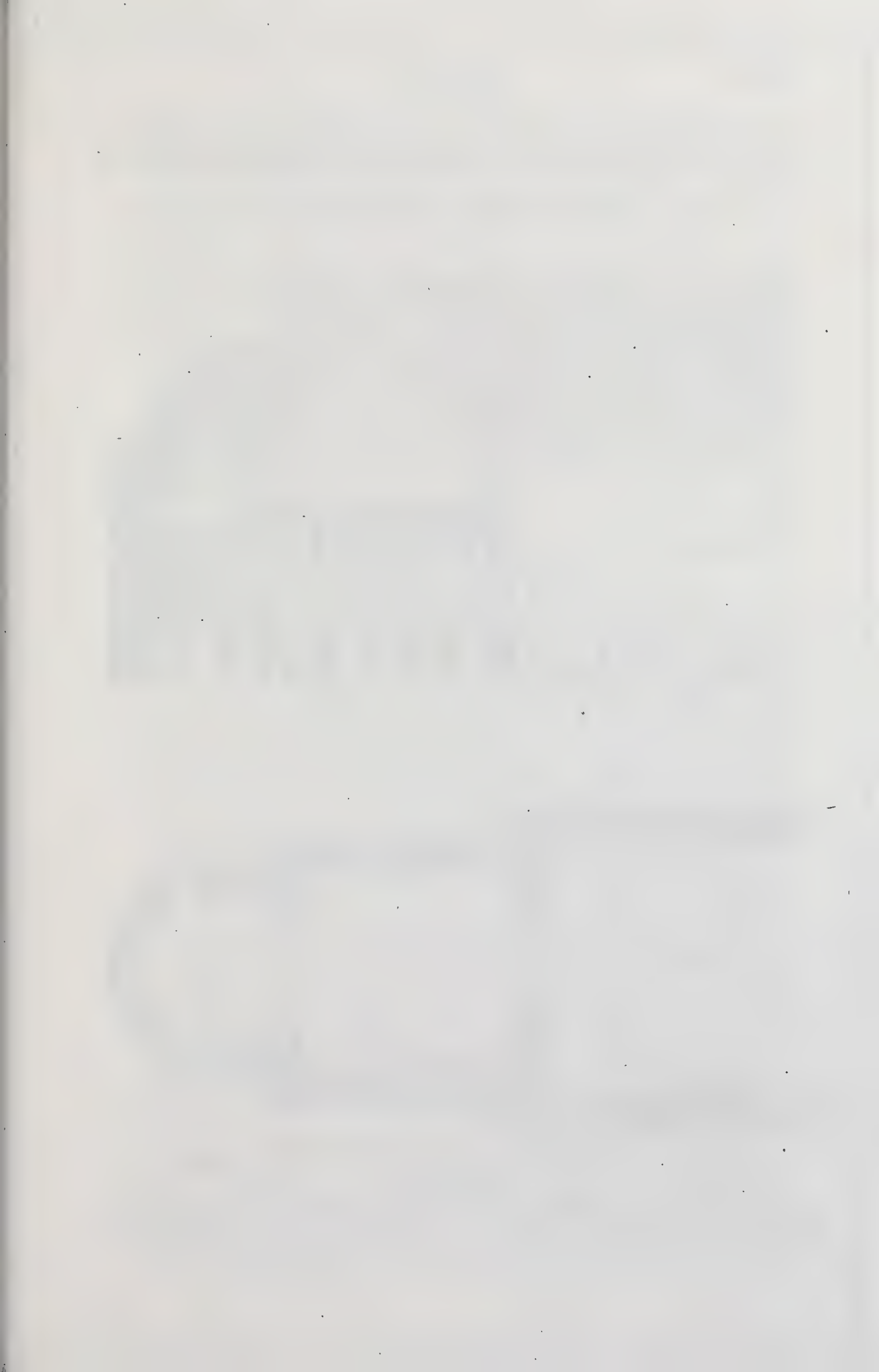
## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The Earls of Southesk and the Bruces of Earlshall were the oldest proprietors of the greater part of the parish; but their history contains nothing so important as to merit a place in this work. The famous Alexander Henderson, who was minister of this parish for more than twenty years, is so well known to the public, and his life and character so fully delineated in the late work of Dr Aiton, that any observations of ours upon the history of that remarkable individual, would be superfluous.

*Land-owners.*—The present land-owners are, 1. Colonel Lindsay, who has just succeeded to his much lamented father, the Honourable Robert Lindsay, who purchased the estate of Leuchars from Sir David Carnegie; 2. Lieutenant-Colonel Long, who purchased Earlshall from the late Sir Robert Bruce Henderson; 3. A. B. Stewart, the late purchaser of Airdit; 4. Cheape of Pusk and Welfield; 5. The Bank of Scotland; 6. George Macgill of Kemback, the proprietor of Lucklaw; 7. Russell of Hayston and Brocklay; 8. William Lawson of Pitlethie; 9. Mr Pitcairn of Pitcullo; 10. Peter Walker of Muirhead. Four of the proprietors only are resident, and farm their own estates.

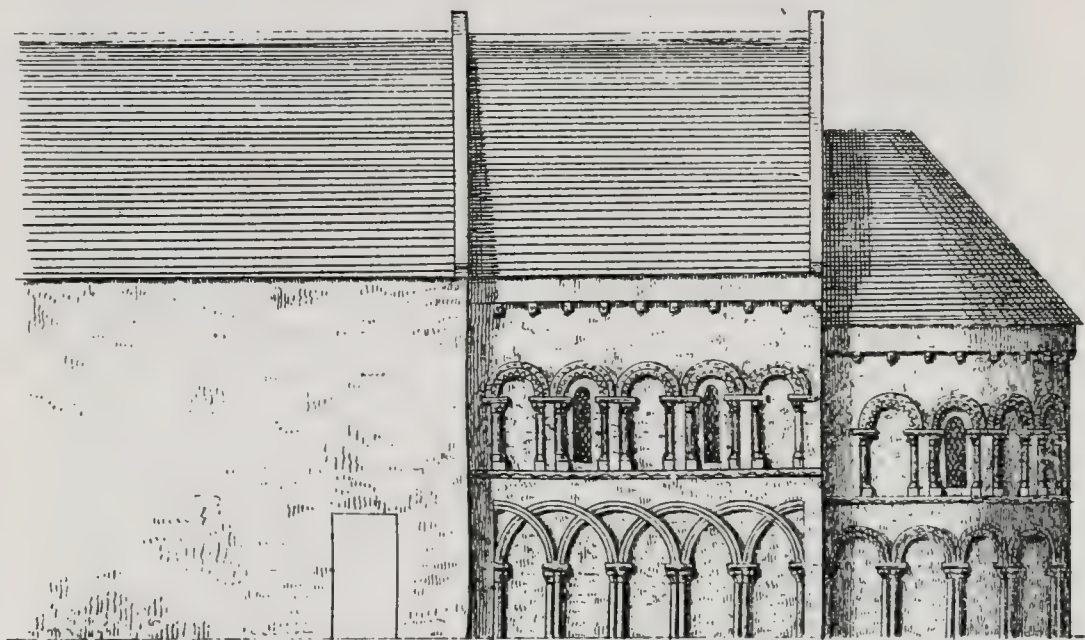
*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest register extant of births and the session records commence with the year 1665. In the register of births, there is a hiatus of seven years, extending from 1699–1705. The session minutes consist of three volumes, the first reaching from 1666–1737; the second from 1737 to 1762; the third from 1762 to the present year. No register of deaths previous to 1766.

*Antiquities.*—The chief object worthy of the attention of the

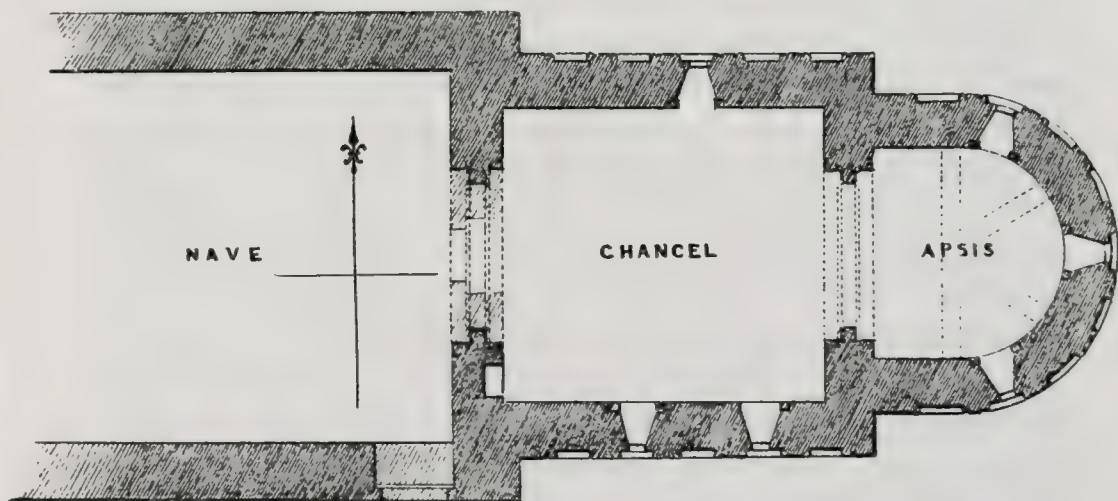




ELEVATION of the ancient part of the Parish Church of LEUCHARS,  
with the altered and defaced parts restored.



PLAN



Scale of Feet

10 8 6 4 2 0

10

20

30

40

50

antiquary is the church, a view of the elevation of the ancient part of which, together with a description of its architecture, we are enabled to embody in these pages, through the kindness of John M'Kinlay, Esq. Bo-ness, who is well versed in the antiquities of this country. This church appears to have been built at three several periods. The eastern division forming the chancel consisted of a square building, having a semicircular apsis towards the east, in which the altar was placed, and is built in the style usually called Saxon, of which it is one of the most entire and interesting specimens to be found in Scotland. The second division was the original nave of the church, having an aisle projecting to the north. This portion of the building also is in the Saxon style, but later than the former; and the third division is comparatively modern, being probably not more ancient than the time of the Reformation. The two last divisions have been greatly altered and modernized, and are fitted up as the parish church, and, although neat and comfortable enough, do not merit any particular description.

The eastern portion consists of two parts. The apsis or semicircular recess to the east, for the reception of the altar, is narrower, and not quite so high as the body of the chancel. Externally, it is of two stages or storeys, the lower one consists of a range of ten semicircular arches, with zig-zag or chevron mouldings, resting on plain double pillars. Above those arches, there is a band or fillet, and resting upon this, is a range of nine smaller arches, supported by short pillars, each pair of which are separated by a small intervening pier. Each of the arches connecting the tops of those pillars consists of two rows of stones, the lower one ornamented with the zig-zag moulding, and the upper one with the billet moulding. The pillars of this upper arcade are placed over the centre of each of the lower arches. There are three windows in the upper tier, placed in the intervals between the pillars; they are narrow and round topped, and widen internally. At some distance above the upper tier of arches, there is a range of *corbels* carved into grotesque heads, supporting the upper part of the wall, which projects a little. The roof appears, from marks on the gable of the other portion of the chancel, to have been a semicone of a pretty high pitch,—but this has been removed, together with two courses of stone off the walls, to make room for a belfry erected about half a century ago, in the degenerate style then in vogue; and in order to support this mass of incongruity, a rude arch has been thrown across within, which partially blocks up two of the windows, and spoils the



appearance of the groined ceiling. In the inside, the windows are decorated with pillars similar to the outside. The roof consists of a simple cross rib of three reeds, with two half arches meeting it in the centre, and groined between. Those arches spring from short pillars supported on projecting corbels, representing heads of animals. A lofty arch opened from the apsis into the body of the chancel, and a similar one opened from thence into the nave. The sides of those arches are each formed of three slender pillars, the middle one projecting beyond the others. The arches connecting them above are ornamented with the zig-zag and fillet mouldings. This portion of the building has two windows to the south, and one to the north. They are ornamented on the inside with pillars, and rich mouldings from the soffits of the arches. The outside of this part of the building, like the apsis, consists of two tiers of arches, the lower rests upon four double and two single pillars on each front, and the tops of each alternate pillar connected by intersecting semicircular arches, so that the spaces between each two pillars have the form of Gothic arches. Over these arches, there is a band or fillet, on which is placed an upper range of pillars and arches similar to those on the apsis, but the pillars stand directly over those of the lower tier. Above this tier of arches, there is a range of corbels representing faces, supporting the upper part of the wall. The roof is high in the pitch, and the timbers are open to the view inside, the body of the chancel not having been arched. Ancient gravestones form the pavement, and this portion of the building is now little else than a tomb. From the style of architecture, it is probable that this portion of the church was built about the year 1100, when the Saxon style prevailed. At or about the period of the Reformation, the two windows on the south side of the body of the chancel were built up, and two square windows with a single stone mullion in each were substituted; and one of the same in the apsis; and although they are somewhat interesting, as showing the degraded style which succeeded the Gothic, it were desirable to have them removed, and the original appearance restored.

The original nave is probably not much later in date than the chancel; but as it only consists of plain dead walls with a single hatched fillet, there is not much from which its date can be ascertained. From the unbroken appearance of the side walls, there does not appear to have been any windows. It was probably lighted by windows in the west gable, which is now removed. A wide and lofty arch

opens into the aisle, the walls of which were formerly only about half their present height, and a similar arch opens into the more modern part of the nave, forming together what is now used as the parish church.

Where the parish school now stands, there once was a chapel called St Bennet's, of which Sir Thomas Wemyss was chaplain at the Reformation. No vestige of it remains; but many human bones are found near the spot inclosed in stone coffins; which, being by no means entire, point to a remote date. To the north of the village, there is a curious circular elevation where stood the castle of Leuchars. It has all the appearance of having been artificially formed, with a moat around it, and a deep well in the centre. It occupies about an acre of ground.\*

There are three ruins of old mansions of a castellated form, kept in partial repair,—these are Earls-hall, Pitcullo, and Airdit. Earls-hall is an interesting object. Its large, venerable hall, whose roof and walls are crowded with crests, inscriptions, &c. is well worthy the attention of the antiquary.†

The most interesting relic of antiquity that has been found in this parish is an earthen jar, which was discovered on Craigiehill, in the year 1808. This jar was found to contain nearly a hundred silver coins in perfect preservation. Unfortunately the jar itself was shivered to pieces by the plough, by which it was thrown up. But most of the coins were secured by the proprietor, the late Hon. Robert Lindsay of Balcarres, where they remain. The coins are stamped with the heads of Roman emperors, such as Severus, Antoninus, Faustina, &c.

### III.—POPULATION.

There has been very little variation in the number of inhabitants in this parish from the earliest times till now, as is the case in most agricultural districts. The only change upon the population is that of locality. The Tents moor, which of old used to be studded with turf built cottages, and gardens and crofts attached to them, is now, in a great measure, depopulated, from the extensive farms which have been formed upon it. Many of the former inhabitants of the moors shifted their quarters to the village, and other parts of the parish.

\* The castle was anciently a place of strength, and one of the strongholds of the Earls of Fife; dismantled, however, by the English in the fourteenth century.

† The dates inscribed in the hall show the building to have been founded in 1546, and finished in 1617.



No. of inhabitants residing in the village of Leuchars in 1831,	614
in Balmullo, another village belonging to this parish,	250
The yearly average of births for seven years ending with 1831 is,	47
of deaths for 1831 is,	22
of marriages,	16
In 1831, the average number of persons under 15 years of age,	689
betwixt 15 and 30,	475
30 and 50,	432
50 and 70,	214
upwards of 70,	59
Number of bachelors in 1831 upwards of 50 years of age,	6
old maids upwards of 45,	25
In 1831 the number of hearths was,	412
of families, in which there are children,	209
of children,	627
which makes an average of exactly 3 to each.	
Number of insane, 3; blind, 3; dumb, 1.	

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The inhabitants are lately much improved in point of cleanliness and dress. Their articles of diet, which formerly consisted chiefly of potatoes and oatmeal, now embrace a greater variety. Instead of the homely bannock, kneaded at his own hearth, you find the cottager enjoying his loaf from the baker, which he accompanies with beer, milk, or tea. Pork and rabbit during winter, fish and cockles during summer, constitute at once a rich and varied diet. By furnishing manure to the neighbouring farmers, the villagers obtain abundant crops of potatoes at an easy rate. They get a certain portion of land, in which they deposit their own sets, and cultivate and clean the land during the summer months, which tends much to promote their health and enjoyment. Indeed, our villagers are in possession of many privileges and comforts which are denied to the inhabitants of wealthier towns; and, on the whole, they are a contented, industrious, intelligent, religious, and happy people. The demoralizing practice of smuggling, formerly so extensively prevalent on the shore, has, by the operation of the excise laws, been abolished for many years.

During the last three years, there have been 9 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—In this parish agriculture is conducted in the most approved style. The deep soils undergo regular rotation by alternate husbandry. The five or six years' course is observed on the loams and deep clays; the eight years' rotation suits the lighter or weaker soils; by allowing the land to rest in pasture for two, three, or more years. On these, turnips are often flaked and eat off by sheep, which is found a prodigious improvement to the soil. Draining of all kinds is universally practised. By the large drain cut between the Tay and the Moultry, of 5 miles extent, 20 feet

wide, and 12 or 14 feet deep, an immense extent of rich land has been gained. Numerous side cuts have been made into it. Tile or furrow draining is also practised successfully. The only inconvenience from this extensive draining is the great multiplication of the grey rat. Inclosing by dikes of stone and lime has gone on with great spirit within these twenty years past, and greatly benefited the lighter soils.

The introduction of the steam-engine into the thrashing-mills on two farms is found a great saving of horse power.

The steadings are now universally in good condition, and on several farms have very excellent accommodation for cattle. There is, however, still a want of cottars' houses for farm-servants, which obliges the farmer to crowd young ploughmen into bothies, which is unfavourable to their improvement in morals. It would perhaps remedy the evil, to distribute the young men among the families of those that are married, and lodge one or two of them with the tenant himself, that all may be under some superintendence, and be profitably employed at leisure hours. Indeed, the bothy system is universally reprobated. The farm roads that are not on the statute labour books, are in the worst condition, especially in winter. This is a subject of loud complaint with those who pay so heavily for statute labour, and reap so little benefit from it.

No. of acres in the parish amounts altogether to about, .	9800 Scotch acres.
under regular cultivation, and not in pasture are	6310
poor clay, and light land, often in pasture, .	3060
in plantations, . . . . .	360
in roads, . . . . .	70

*Rent of Land.*—There are 31 farms (beside small feus). of every variety of soil and size; and 140 ploughs, averaging fifty acres for each plough. The average rent of good land is L. 2, 10s. per acre, or rather L. 1, with one-half boll of wheat, one-half boll barley, and one-half boll oats. Many acres are still valued at L. 4 each. Poor soils are from L. 1, 10s. to 7s. 6d. per acre, the average value of the Tents moor. The long tract of bents is fit for nothing but harbouring rabbits, a species of stock once in greater repute, but now nearly extirpated, on account of its diminished value, and its depredations on the neighbouring crops. About a thousand acres of such links may be considered not worth cultivating. The valued rental is L. 10,541 Scots. The allowed real rental at last valuation of stipend was L. 13,660, and it is thought that if the farms were out of lease, they could not at present bring much beyond that sum. But it is difficult to ascertain the real rental, as there



are nine proprietors who at present farm their own property, and the rents of the farms in lease vary every year, as they are paid by the fiars.

The Clydesdale horse is most in use here, and the Teeswater breed of cattle, crossed with the Fife, is in greatest repute. We have every variety of sheep,—Leicester, Cheviot, and Highland. The last are fed with turnip in winter, for the butcher. The two first are kept for lambing in spring.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of gross produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of grain from $63\frac{3}{4}$ acres at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	L. 22000
potatoes and turnips at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	6000
hay at 7d per stone,	-	-	4000
pasture land, good and bad,	-	-	5000
fisheries, &c.	-	-	300
			<hr/>
			L. 37300

Little flax or hay is raised for the market.

*Manufactures.*—Besides the employment of about 30 families as masons, carpenters, smiths, tailors, shoemakers in this parish, there are a great many engaged in weaving. Independent of the weavers who are employed in towelling and sheeting for home consumption, there are about two-thirds who work coarse linens, chiefly Dowlas, Osnaburghs, and Silesias for the Cupar and Dundee manufacturers, who export them for America and the West Indies. Many of our young females take to the loom during the winter months, but in summer they prefer out-door work. Since the introduction of machinery, hand-spinning has almost ceased to be a branch of industry. A spindle of yarn will occupy a woman three days and a-half, for which she will earn 1s.; a spindle of shirting yarn will yield double that sum. The number of looms altogether in this parish may be estimated at about 130. Our weavers are most industrious, working many of them ten hours, sometimes even more. Before the salutary change which the weaving interest has lately experienced, the gain per day at the loom, with the deduction of 4d. for expenses, did not exceed 8d. Now, however, provisions being moderate, their labour commands a fair remuneration.

An extensive distillery was erected at Seggie, upon the river Eden, twenty-six years ago, and has, with the exception of this year, been all along in successful operation, distilling about 100 quarters of grain per day, during the cool season. Several scores of

cattle were annually fed within the premises. It yielded constant employment to about 100 workmen, who received ample wages. The advantages of such an establishment to the farmers in the neighbourhood have been fully appreciated; as a ready market was afforded them for the disposal of grain.

A saw-mill, barley, lint, and two oatmeal-mills are in the parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The market-towns of Cupar, St Andrews, and Dundee, situated at seven, six, and eight miles' distance respectively, with daily communication by post and carriers, afford every advantage to the parish for buying and selling.

*Villages.*—The two villages,—Leuchars, with 614 inhabitants, and Balmullo, a straggling village on the Dundee public road, with 250 inhabitants,—are dry, well-aired, well-watered, and healthy villages, with excellent turnpikes through them.

*Means of Communication.*—The soil being dry, the roads throughout the parish are kept without difficulty in the best repair. There are fourteen miles of turnpike, and nearly ten of statute labour roads. Three four-horse coaches have continued to pass through the parish daily from Edinburgh to Aberdeen for many years, but their number is now reduced to two. Coaches run twice a-week by way of Leuchars between Dundee and St Andrews. Besides the Guard-bridge pier already mentioned, there is another at Seggie, which is chiefly for the convenience of the distillery.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, situate in the village of Leuchars, is distant from the east end of the parish about four miles, and from the western extremity nearly six miles. A more central position for the bulk of the population would be about a mile farther to the westward. It is a commodious, well-lighted, and comfortable building, accommodating 850 sitters. There are not more than a dozen free sittings in the church; 1s. 3d. only is the average of each seat per annum. A deep gallery, holding 150 persons, erected out of the poor's funds, accommodates the householders at prices graduating from 2s. 6d. to 6d. each. As many more are also supplied with seats, at a small rent, by the principal heritors, after the tenants and their cottars are provided.

The manse was built in 1806, and is still considered a respectable and well-finished house, and pleasantly situated. The glebe, together with the garden, contains about 9 Scots acres of such land as would rent at about L. 4 per acre. The stipend allocated in 1820 amounts to 16 chalders, which, for the last four



years averages at L. 218 Sterling, with L. 8, 6s 8d. for communion elements.

There is only one church of Original Seceders, stationed at Balmullo, with about 70 joined members, and a respectable minister, whose stipend is of small and variable amount. But to supply the deficiency, his supporters have built him a small manse and a few offices, and granted two acres for a cow's grass.

The attendance at the Established Church throughout the year is steady and full. The number of persons attending church may be estimated at 600 generally. The number of communicants average 700. Some are induced, from convenience, usually to attend the neighbouring parish churches. The number of dissenters throughout the parish is perhaps not more than 100.

A society has been established for twelve years for promoting religious purposes at home and abroad, which has contributed about L. 40 annually. However, it is now fast declining.

The collections throughout the year at the church door average L. 23, and have varied little in amount for the last twenty-five years. The farmers seem to prefer giving their charity to their cottars, with whom they are more immediately connected. The villagers assist their poorer neighbours in a similar way, without troubling the kirk-session, by rendering it the medium of communication. A mistaken idea prevails among many that the session funds are so rich as to require no addition to them.

*Education.*—There are four schools; one parochial and three unendowed. Of the latter, one is for teaching sewing chiefly, and English reading,—is supported by the Balcarres family, and the fees of the scholars. The remaining two are supported by fees alone. The branches taught in the parish school are, English, Latin, Greek, arithmetic, practical mathematics, writing, grammar, and geography. At present there are no Latin or Greek scholars. The amount of fees in the parochial school is L. 20; do. in the Balmullo school at present L. 40 nearly. The amount of fees in the other two varies much. The parish schoolmaster now enjoys the maximum salary; and interest of 2000 merks Scots, also a glebe of two acres, bequeathed by the Rev. A. Henderson. The children generally attend only two or three quarters in the year, and pay 6s., 7s. 6d., or at most 9s. per annum each, but often pay weekly. No person is known to be incapable of reading, and very few who cannot write after nine years of age. There

is also a flourishing Sabbath school, which has subsisted for twenty years. No additional school is needed.

*Literature.*—A parish library was lately instituted by private subscription in Leuchars, containing some hundred volumes of various useful and entertaining reading, calculated to promote mental and moral improvement.

*Poor.*—The multiplication of paupers is owing to the growing impression, that heritors are bound to support the poor. Dilapidations are annually making on the lying capital, and are in the course of annihilating it. The number now receiving aid regularly from the kirk-session is 30 persons; occasionally, 36. The average number for a few years past is about 25. Average of aliment per week for each is 1s. 3d. The annual amount of charitable contributions is L. 75; collections, L. 23; land-rent, L. 24; church seat rents, L. 12; interest, mortcloth, hearse, L. 11.

*Fairs.*—Two fairs are held at Leuchars each year for the sale of cattle and small wares. But of late years they have been little frequented.

*Alehouses.*—There are 6 alehouses in the village of Leuchars, and other 6 along the great roads of the parish.

*Fuel.*—Coal is brought from Newcastle and the Frith of Forth by sea; also by land from the coal districts in the county. Wood is much used as a burning material by the villagers, who enjoy the valuable privilege of carrying home the *debris* from the plantation on Colonel Lindsay's estate.

Advantage is often taken of the savings banks in the neighbouring towns.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since last survey, the greatest change is the enlargement of our villages, and the depopulation of the country parts of the parish, which has not been attended with an improvement in the morals of the people in general.

*September 1836.*



# UNITED PARISHES OF INVERKEITHING AND ROSYTH.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANDREW ROBERTSON, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.\*

*Name.*—THE name is variously written; formerly, it was Enderkeyden, Henderkeyden, Enderkeithen, and Innerkeithing; at present, it is Inverkeithing. It is said to be derived from the Gaelic, according to one etymology, signifying “the mouth of the Keith,” the rivulet which at this place falls into the sea; according to another, “the confluence of the slow misty water with the sea;” according to a third, “the entrance of the water into the sea between little hills,”—with which last, appearances best correspond. Rosyth, formerly Rosaith, is said to be also from the Gaelic, and to denote a tongue of land extending into the water.

The parishes were united in 1636. The deed of annexation being lost, nothing certain is known about the terms of the union; but it is said that the incumbent was to preach for two Sabbaths successively in Inverkeithing, but on every third Sabbath at Rosyth.

*Topographical Appearances.*—This parish is of a very irregular figure. The Ferry hills form an indented, and somewhat circular peninsula, upward of a mile in diameter, with a neck about 300 yards broad. From this neck of land, the parish extends westward upwards of three miles, (including the harbour of Brucehaven, and a small portion of Limekilns,) and runs northward to Crossgates,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and eastward to Letham hill, about 1 mile. Its general figure, (exclusive of the Ferry hills,) resembles two arms stretched out nearly at right angles, embracing a part of the parish of Dunfermline, and nowhere much exceeding a mile in breadth. At one place, the parish of Dunfermline approaches within half a mile of the burgh. The Frith of Forth is the southern and

\* The scientific part of this account prepared by the Rev. Andrew Robertson, Junior.

part of the eastern boundary of the parish ; it adjoins to Dalgety on the east ; and is next to Dunfermline on the north and west.

This parish may be viewed as consisting, in the south part, of a range of greenstone hills, not exceeding 300 feet above the level of the sea ; of a rising ground with a southerly exposure in the north part ; and of a valley between, running east and west. There are about six miles of sea coast ; a small portion sandy, another rocky and rather high ; the remainder intermingled mud and rock. The bay of St Margaret's Hope, the islet of Inch Garvie, and the rock Bimar, which last has often been the cause of shipwreck, are within the parish.

*Meteorology.*—More rain falls, a few miles inland, either to the north or south than here,—it being observed that the clouds, moving towards the Frith before a westerly wind, divide about Stirling, and keep the higher range of country on both sides of the estuary, leaving the lower grounds near it comparatively free. Sometimes the rain is so strongly electrical, that the common electrometer for rain will charge a coated jar very smartly in a few minutes.

*Hydrography.*—The adjoining Frith has strong currents during the flowing and ebbing of the tides, with many eddies and counter-currents, particularly near the Ferry, where it is about a mile and a half only broad. Between Inch Garvie and the north side, the greatest depth is about 40 fathoms ; south of that rock it is not more than 22. Near Bimar, there is one point where it is said to be upwards of 50 ; but a mile farther up it does not exceed 11, with a bank in the middle on which there is still shoaler water.

There is no submarine moss known to exist on the shores of the parish, though frequently these are covered to a considerable depth, with the moss thrown into the water at Blair Drummond, and floated down with the ebbing tide. There is, however, a considerable concretion of the sea sand going on in several places, forming flat reefs, some of them covered with sea-weed, and not much softer than the sandstone rock.

The water of the springs in this neighbourhood is generally impure, with a few exceptions,—carbonate of lime, and in the upper part of the parish, iron, being the characteristic contaminating substances. The composition of one of them may be seen in Jameson's Edinburgh Philosophical Journal for April 1829. There are none of these springs of note or considerable size, and most of them fail in dry weather. The temperature of such of them as have been tried is 47° or 48° F. Two burns or streamlets run through the parish, unite and fall into the harbour.



*Geology.*—With the slight exceptions of a few hill tops and steep faces, almost the whole of the parish is in a high state of cultivation. In the southern part, the soil is a decomposed greenstone, light on the eminences, but very fertile. More in the interior, it is clayey or sandy, having chiefly sandstone for its substratum, but still excellent in quality. On the higher grounds in the north of the parish, it consists of a ferruginous sand or clay, or of moss, very poor, and not susceptible of much improvement, the effect of labour and manure upon it being in a great measure destroyed by the first wet season. There is a good deal of alluvial soil on the banks of the streamlets running through the parish, and in some places near the sea, a few acres of deposits of sand or clay.

From the state of cultivation in which the parish is, there are often, in the interior part of it, no exposures of the subjacent strata for spaces of a square mile together. There are, however, some very good sections along the east and south-west sides of it, where it is washed by the sea; on the north-east, where it is bounded by a rivulet with steep banks; and in several quarries.

The stratified rocks are wholly of the coal formation of the secondary series, in many places broken through, distorted and overlaid by various modifications of trap rock, usually greenstone.

In the north part of the parish coal exists, but it crops out about a mile north of the town, and, in the greater part of the parish, the strata underly the coal, and consist of the mountain limestone, sandstone, slate-clay, clay-ironstone, bituminous shale, and a stratified whitish slate-clay or marl; these being deeply buried in many places beneath the trap rocks, with alluvial matter, chiefly clay. The small islands and rocks in the Frith, which are in the parish, are wholly of greenstone.

The stratified rocks, in the southern part of the parish particularly, bear the marks of having been acted on by a disturbing force producing disruption of the strata, and inclination of them in various directions, this inclination often changing abruptly within very short distances. This disturbing force appears to have been intimately connected with the masses of trap rock which penetrate the strata in many places, and it has generally acted by depressing the strata, and causing them to dip all round towards the centre of the mass of greenstone, in very few instances by upraising them, and giving them a dip away from it.

Few simple minerals are contained in the rocks of this neigh-

bourhood. Quartz crystals, some of them purple, steatite, sulphate of barytes, felspar, and some zeolites, are found in the greenstone; calcareous spar both in the greenstone and limestone; and pyrites is abundant in the ironstone, slate-clay, greenstone and limestone. Galena\* and flintyslate also exist, and boulders of chlorite and mica slate, sometimes of large size, are not uncommon,—though within these few years, four of the largest of these have been blasted to pieces for building materials, or for making drains. The greenstone rocks frequently assume the columnar form.

*Zoology.*—The most noted wild quadrupeds are the hare, badger, fox, otter, weasel, but all very scarce. Among the birds may be enumerated the pheasant, partridge, sparrow-hawk, kite, a blue-looking hawk, the common and a white owl, raven, carrion-crow, rook, wood-pigeon, thrush and blackbird, both of which are much on the increase, fieldfare, redwing, stonechat, snow and common bunting, three species of linnet, whin-sparrow, reed-sparrow, several of the creepers, jay, magpie, blue and yellow wagtails, chaffinch, wren, &c.; wood-cock, snipe; green, gray and golden plovers; curlew, whimbrel, brown dotterel, and several more of the scolopax tribe; several species of gull, the black-headed tern, pied oyster catcher, several species of duck, the teal, widgeon, auks, the plane and hooked-beaked marrots, the cormorant, heron, wild goose, swan, solan-goose, and, though very rarely, a large species of *Anas* with a red mark of a horse-shoe form on the breast. Most of these birds desert the place in summer and return in winter. Of amphibia and fishes, there are two species of seals, the porpoise, the finner, so named from its long dorsal fin, the bottle-nosed whale, a much larger species of whale, salmon, sea-trout, cod, codling, podley, seath, flounder, skate, herring, white-bait, &c. The common cuttle is frequently thrown upon the beach, and occasionally that deformed fish the *Lophius* of a large size. A large Opah was thrown on shore on the 23d July 1835, but it was cut into several pieces, as the first step in the process of frying, before it was seen by any one who knew its value. This exceedingly rare and most beautiful fish must be seen in the recent state, before any conception can be formed of its superb appearance. The spots, and green, gold, and silver lustre of the skin, contrasted with the bright red of the fins and tail, constitute a whole which

\* *Vide* for particulars, "Analysis of Galena, from Castleland Hill, near Inverkeithing, by the Rev. A. Robertson, Junior," in Vol. vii. of Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal.



surpasses description. The skin of it was uncommonly thick and of a whitish texture; the flesh resembled dark-coloured beef. Some of the medusas abound in autumn. There are no shell-fish of consequence.

*Botany*.—The following rather rare plants have been gathered during the last five years in the parish, or within half a mile of its boundaries, and any doubtful ones verified by the highest authority. The names are those of Hooker's British Flora.

Salicornia herbacea	Salsola kali
Veronica scutellata	Chenopodium maritimum
——— polita	——— album
——— Bauxbaumii	——— urbicum
Fedia dentata	——— bonus Henricus
——— auricula	Cicuta virosa
——— mixta	Heliosciadum inundatum
Eriophorum angustifolium	Myrrhis odorata
Eleocharis pauciflora	Enanthe crocata
Scirpus maritimus	Torilis nodosa
——— sylvaticus	Parnassia palustris
Iris fetidissima	Sambucus ebulus
Alopecurus agrestis	Drosera Anglica
Poa distans	Allium vineale
——— rigida	——— arenarium
Hordeum murinum	Galanthus nivalis
Brachypodium sylvaticum	Triglochin maritimum
Rotbolla incurvata	——— palustre
Polypogon monspeliense	Tulipa sylvestris
Setaria viridis	Alisma ranunculoides
Catabrosa aquatica, dwarf single-flowered variety	Acer campestre
Festuca myurus	Adoxa moschatellina
——— rubra	Paris quadrifolia
Triticum loliaceum	Scleranthus annuus
Bromus rigidus	Chrysosplenium alternifolium
——— arvensis	Saxifraga granulata
Dipsacus sylvestris	Silene Anglica
Parietaria officinalis	——— noctiflora
Sagina maritima	——— nutans
——— apetala	Saponaria officinalis
Primula veris	Arenaria rubra
——— elatior	——— maritima
Myosotis collina	——— trinervis
——— cespitosa	Spergula subulata
——— sylvatica	Sedum telephium
Symphytum officinale	——— reflexum
——— tuberosum	——— villosum
Viola hirta	Reseda lutea
——— odorata	——— luteola
——— palustris	Prunus domestica
Convolvulus sepium	——— insititia
Cynoglossum officinale	Tormentilla reptans
Erythraea centaureum	Potentilla reptans
Solanum dulcamara	Spirea filipendula
——— nigrum	Helianthemum vulgare
Hyoseyamus niger	Glaucium luteum
Campanula trachelium	Thalictrum flavum
Anchusa semper-virens	——— majus
Gentiana campestris	——— minus
Ligusticum scoticum	Ranunculus sceleratus
Pimpinella saxifraga	——— auricomus
	Acinos vulgaris

*Mentha viridis*  
 ——— *piperita*  
*Marrubium vulgare*  
*Origanum vulgare*  
*Ballota nigra*  
*Stachys arvensis*  
 ——— *ambigua*  
*Linaria repens*  
*Coronopus Ruellii*  
*Sisymbrium sophia*  
*Nasturtium sylvestre*  
*Lepidium latifolium*  
 ——— *campestre*  
 ——— *ruderales*  
*Camelina sativa*  
*Thlaspi arvense*  
*Hesperis matronalis*  
*Barbarea præcox*  
*Sinapis nigra*  
 ——— *alba*  
 ——— *tenuifolia*  
 ——— *muralis*  
*Geranium pyrenaicum*  
 ——— *columbinum*  
 ——— *sanguineum*  
*Malva sylvestris*  
 ——— *moschata*  
*Lavatera arborea*  
*Ononis ramossissima*  
*Vicia lutea*  
 ——— *Bobartii*  
 ——— *sativa*  
 ——— *lathyroides*  
*Oxytropis uralensis*  
*Astragalus glycyphyllos*  
*Ornithopus perpusillus*  
*Ervum tetraspermum*  
*Melilotus officinalis*  
 ——— *leucantha*  
*Trifolium scabrum*  
 ——— *striatum*  
 ——— *ornithopodioides*  
*Medicago sativa*  
 ——— *maculata*

*Hypericum perforatum*  
 ——— *pulchrum*  
 ——— *hirsutum*  
 ——— *quadrangulum*  
*Cichorium Intybus*  
*Carduus acanthoides*  
 ——— *tenuiflorus*  
 ——— *marianus*  
 ——— *nutans*  
*Bidens cernua*  
 ——— *tripartita*  
*Tragopogon majus*  
*Artemisia absinthium*  
*Gnaphalium dioicum*  
 ——— *minimum*  
 ——— *germanicum*  
 ——— *rectum*  
 ——— *sylvaticum*  
 ——— *uliginosum*  
*Aster tripolium*  
*Pyrethrum parthenium*  
*Matricaria chamomilla*  
*Anthemis arvensis*  
 ——— *cotula*  
*Habenaria viridis*  
*Gymnadenia conopsea*  
*Malaxis paludosa*  
*Epipactis latifolia*  
*Euphorbia Lathyris*  
 ——— *exigua*  
 ——— *paralia*  
 ——— *portlandica*  
*Arum maculatum*  
*Carex limosa*, and other rare carices  
*Myrica gale*  
*Atriplex angustifolia*  
 ——— *littoralis*  
 ——— *laciniata*  
*Cistopteris fragilis*  
*Aspidium lobatum*  
*Asplenium marinum*  
 ——— *ruta-muraria*  
 ——— *trichomanes*  
 ——— *adiantum nigrum*

This is given as the only Scottish station of *Verbena officinalis*, but it has not been found for many years back.

*Uses, &c.*—*Reseda luteola* has sometimes been collected in cartloads, for the dyers; *Menyanthes trifoliata* is given occasionally as a bitter, particularly to sick calves, and also *Teucrium scorodonia*. Nettles (*Urtica dioica*) and the *Caltha palustris* are used as an ingredient in rennet for curdling milk; St John's wort (*Hypericum perforatum* and *pulchrum*) in an herb mixture for coughs; and an infusion of black horehound (*Ballota nigra*,) for colds. This last, however, appears to be but a rough medicine. A person who took it, said that it made him very "sick and ill," though it cured him. The leaves of *Tussilago farfara* have been smoked



by asthmatic people, instead of tobacco, it is said, with considerable benefit; and infusion of agrimony is a favourite beverage with some old persons, instead of tea.\*

From the high state of cultivation in which the parish is, it cannot well be ascertained what plants are attached to certain soils, excepting the well known distinctions of aquatic, bog, and rock plants. The rarer plants are usually found in the greenstone soil, but in general the plants do not affect soils so much as localities; a plant being often abundant in one spot, while in another, under exactly similar circumstances, not a particle of it is to be seen.

There are few plantations of trees, and these but of very small extent. When young these contain principally larch and fir, which, as they grow up, are thinned out to make room for the elm, oak, ash, and beech, planted along with them. The only trees apparently indigenous are a few alder and willow bushes on the banks of the streamlets.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Burgh.*—Inverkeithing is a Royal Burgh of a very ancient date. It has a charter from William the Lion, confirming another still older; and James VI., by one dated 1598, recognizes the privileges bestowed by former monarchs, and declares its rights of custom, &c. to extend from the water of Leven on the east, to that of Devon on the west, and as far north as Kinross. Most of these have been sold or disposed of; but there are still retained the duties at the markets held at Kinross and Tulliebole, and the customs at North Ferry passage. Even Edinburgh at one time paid a trifling acknowledgment of superiority for some parts of the Calton-hill, but it was bought up or fell into desuetude. According to the first printed return of the treasurer under the new regulations of burghs, “the funds, property, and effects” of the burgh are valued at L. 7437, 10s. 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. exclusive of the town-house, jail, and “other property,” and the debts at L. 2029. The burgh affairs are at present managed by a provost, two bailies, a dean of guild, a

\* This rustic practice, however, is sometimes not unattended with danger. Once, upon inquiry being made what had become of a patch of hyoscyamus, which had disappeared just as the plants were about coming into flower, information was received that two persons of the common working class had taken the whole up, to make “excellent medicine.” Shortly after this, a farm-labourer was met carrying an immense sheaf of digitalis, who, upon being asked, from a humane motive, what he intended to do with it, replied, “to make fine herb-tea for the cold.” He was of course informed of the risk of poisoning which he might incur by drinking the said tea.

treasurer, and nine councillors. The constituency of the burgh for parliamentary elections is about 57; for the election of town-councillors, about 26. It sends a Member to Parliament along with Culross, Queensferry, Stirling, and Dunfermline.

By a grant from Queen Mary and Henry Darnley, the ancient family of Henderson of Fordel, having a part of their estate within the parish, held the office of hereditary provost and sheriff; but this right was never exercised. In the ridings of the Scottish Parliament, the provost was entitled to ride next to the provost of Edinburgh. The Magistrates had the power of pit and gallows within their jurisdiction, that is, of inflicting the punishment of drowning or hanging,—in testimony of which, a rising ground facing the town, still bears the name of the Gallow-bank, and there is still in it a Gallow-tower. The court of four burghs, authorized by James III. to draw up a set of mercantile regulations, had their sittings here; and before the convention of burghs was appointed to be held at Edinburgh, Inverkeithing was the usual place of its meeting. The last assemblage of the Culdees took place in the church.

Some battles have been fought here, the last in 1651, by Cromwell's troops against the Scots. There is a tradition that, in the reign of Alexander III. the Jews proposed to establish a fortified commercial city on the Ferry hills, but the design somehow misgave. A document confirmatory of this is said to exist in one of the libraries or public offices in Edinburgh. St Margaret's Hope is so called, because it was the place where Margaret, who afterwards became Queen of Malcolm III., landed during a storm in her flight from England. The adjacent ferry is also named from her, (Buchanan calls it *Margaritæ Portus*,) supposed to be from her frequently using it in her passage to or from the palace at Dunfermline.

*Ferry*.—At this ferry, is a flourishing village inhabited by the boatmen, principally, and much resorted to in summer, as sea-bathing quarters. The piers are unrivalled, and there is an elegant and commodious inn, lately built. In old times, this ferry was subject to the Abbots of Dunfermline, who drew the fortieth penny of passage money to repair their *Quair*, and also one-fourth to supply boats. The present superior of whom the ground of the village is feued, is the Marquis of Tweeddale. Of later years, the right of ferry belonged to neighbouring proprietors, the Earl of Rose-



bery, Dundas of Dundas, &c. to whom a rent was paid, but upwards of twenty years ago, it was vested by act of Parliament in trustees. The rent, under this act, once amounted to L. 2300, but now it yields about L. 1500 only. The currents of the tide here are so peculiar, that, as was proved upon trial when an attempt was made about the beginning of the century to turn off the old boatmen, no sailor, unless brought up upon the passage, can navigate the boats without much delay and risk.

At one time, a visionary project of a tunnel beneath the Frith a little way above the ferry, was entertained; and more lately, another of a chain bridge across it, having Inch Garvie in the middle for an intermediate step. There is at the ferry a battery, at present dismantled, erected after the visit of Paul Jones.

*Eminent Men.*—The settlement of the last incumbent of this parish is a conspicuous event in the history of the church. It took place in 1752, and occasioned the deposition of Mr Gillespie, minister of Carnock, on account of his refusal to attend the meetings of presbytery held for that purpose. This was the origin of the Relief church. The parish has produced no eminent men, unless Admiral Greig, who rose to the chief command of the Russian navy, and died in 1788, is to be accounted one.

*Land-owners.*—The valued rent is L. 6866, 16s. 10d. Scots money, and the proprietors are rated as follows: Earl of Hopetoun, L. 2268; Sir Robert Preston's Heirs, L. 1947, 19s. 4d.; Sir Philip C. H. Durham, G. C. B., L. 750, 16s. 8d.; Rev. John Kellock Cuninghame, L. 482, 19s. 4d.; James Hunt, Esq. L. 425; John Newton, Esq. L. 392, 16s. 11d.; Heritors of Ferry hills, (several) L. 246; John Cuninghame, Esq. L. 159, 14s. 9d.; Marquis of Tweeddale, L. 86, 15s. 1d.; David Peat, Esq., L. 63; Ferguson Sharp, Esq., L. 31, 12s. 6d.; Captain Spittal's Disponees, L. 7; Andrew Tulloch's Heirs, L. 5, 2s. 3d.

*Parochial Registers.* \*—The minutes of session are regular and

\* There are some curious notices of old customs to be found in the old minutes. Money appears to have been often given from the poor's funds, to enable students to prosecute their studies, and there was a fine to the poor on baptisms and marriages, when these took place in the parties' own houses. The session also assumed the power of appointing who should sit in the vacant seats in the church, and it seems to have been acquiesced in. Persons are prohibited from receiving into their houses, or letting houses to those from another parish, who do not bring "*testificates*," and the civil powers are called upon to enforce this. Persons recusant are compelled to appear before the kirk-session, and to submit to the discipline enjoined, under penalty of imprisonment by the magistrates, until they consent to do so.

The exercise of discipline also appears to have been what would at present be accounted rigorous. During the first thirty years of last century, there are instances

without blanks, from 1676 to the present date. The register of baptisms and marriages also extends from 1676 to the present date, though from 1676 to 1698, in the same books with the session minutes, and intermixed with them as they occurred, and with the exception of a blank from 1711 to 1748, caused by the loss of a book, which, according to an entry in the session minutes about 1755, was taken to London as evidence in a law-suit about 1750, and never returned. There is a register of burials from 1702 to 1708, and for 1710, and of testimonials given and received from 1701 to 1711.

*Antiquities.*—On the top of Letham hill, there is what is said to be the remains of a Druidical temple. To uninitiated eyes, it appears to be a few blocks of greenstone, somewhat circularly arranged on the top of a greenstone hill, where such loose fragments of the rock below are to be expected. In the north part of the parish, there is a stone 10 feet high,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  broad, and 1 thick, with rude figures of men and horses cut upon it, but now much defaced, supposed to be a Danish monument. Situated on a small rock, connected by a causeway with the main-land, stands the Castle of Rosyth, noticed in the novel of the Abbot. It is a ruinous square tower, forming the north-east angle of what must have been a pretty large square of buildings. Over the gateway is a mouldered armorial bearing, surmounted by a crown, and M. R. 1561. On the stone bars of the great windows of the hall, which are evidently much more recent than the original loop-holes, is “F \* S” and M \* N”

of persons rebuked before the congregation for swearing, drunkenness, stealing, for not attending public worship, for being out of doors unnecessarily, or carrying water on the Sabbath, for ferrying people across on the Sabbath without an order from the minister, for abusive language or calling names, very frequently women for scolding, once, a man for cursing and striking his wife, and another for consulting a “wizard.” An offender, in addition to the usual censures and fine, is ordered to learn to read within a year, under penalty of censure, if he shall be found “deficient in learning.” According to order of the Lord Ordinary, there is, in 1701, a guardian of morality appointed in the parish, to put the laws in execution against immorality and profaneness, and there appears to have been a strict system of espionage established in regard to these.

In 1702, there is a named list of the communicants, chiefly females, amounting to seventy-eight in all, and a few years after, a named list of elders, amounting to nineteen. During this period it is customary to mark in the minutes the name of any stranger who may have preached, and very often the subject of his sermon. Even on solemn occasions, decorum was evidently not very strictly observed in those days, as at every sacrament there is a regular entry of a sum of money paid to the town officers “for keeping off the thronge.” Many irregular marriages are also recorded.

About 1720, the parish seems to have been in a sad state so far as morality was concerned, and also in the years preceding 1745, both periods of great political excitement. Offenders during the time between these dates were also exceedingly refractory and contumacious, and there appear to be good grounds for concluding that the present generation and their fathers have improved very much upon their ancestors in those days, at least in sobriety and decency of behaviour.



“Anno 1639.” Upon the south side of the Castle near the door is this inscription:—

IN DEV TYM DRAW YIS CORD YE BEL TO CLINK,

QVHAIS MERY VOCE VARNIS TO MEAT AND DRINK.

There appear to be the remains of a four gun battery on the side of the rock next the sea. This Castle is said by Sir Robert Sibbald to have been the seat of Stewart of Rosyth or Durisdeer, a descendant of James Stewart, brother to Walter, the great Steward of Scotland, and father of Robert II. There is a tradition that the mother of Oliver Cromwell was born in it, and that the Protector visited it when he commanded the army in Scotland. It is now the property of the Earl of Hopetoun. At the place of encampment of Cromwell's troops on the Ferry hills, swords and English coins have been dug up, and cannon shot, almost consumed by rust, have been found near the field of battle. In the North Ferry, there was once a Roman Catholic chapel, founded by Robert I., which was a dependency of the Abbey of Dunfermline, and subsisted till destroyed by the English in 1651. Its ruins still remain, and the burial ground is still in use. Between the ferries is Inch Garvie, on which Sir Archibald Dundas of that Ilk obtained from James IV. leave to build a castle, with important privileges. It was anciently fortified, and used as a state prison, and was repaired and mounted with cannon during the late war. At present, it is abandoned. Besides this building, there is on the west end of the rock, a ruined round tower or redoubt, and on the east end, what is said to be the remains of a battery,—according to tradition, both erected by Cromwell's soldiers. In the burgh there are still houses pointed out as the *town* residences of the Rosebery and Fordel families, and it is asserted that there was even here a palace of David I. An old tenement, named “the Inns,” is said to have been the residence of Annabella Drummond queen of Robert III. By a charter from her husband, the magistrates were to pay to her a hundred shillings a year at the feast of Pentecost. She died here in 1403. The house is exempted from burgh jurisdiction, though in the middle of the town, and is said to contain, among other conveniences, a subterraneous passage to the sea. Numerous vaults and ruins are near it, and the foundations of the “chapel” were lately dug up. These are supposed to have belonged either to the Franciscans or Dominicans, both of whom had once monasteries in the place. When the late church was repaired in 1806, there was found a font made of fine sandstone, which has been placed in the porch of the present church.

Its form is hexagonal, the extreme breadth being a little more than three feet, and, with its pedestal, it is about four feet high. The bowl of it is a sort of hemisphere, two feet broad, and one deep, with a hole of about an inch diameter, pierced through the bottom. It had been carefully buried and surrounded with straw, the remains of which were still beside it, and it contained within the bowl of it a quantity of human bones, probably relics, and an ink-glass. The six angles of it are wrought into a kind of ornamental pillar, and on every one of the six faces, there is the bust of an angel with expanded wings, having on its breast, and supported by its hands, a shield of a triangular form with curved outlines. These shields contain ancient armorial bearings. By persons skilled in heraldry, these are said to be the arms of Scotland; those of David Bruce and Margaret Logie, his queen, or of Robert III. and Annabella Drummond, who were probably reigning when the font was made; those of Gourlay of Kincaig; those of Alderston, the heiress of which married the laird of Kincaig of that time being, or of a Stuart (Rosyth,) a Clerk, a Lindsay, &c.—probably those of Lowis of Menar, or of Loren of Harwood, or of a Fowlis,—the arms of Melville, old Lords of Melville in Fifeshire, or of Craigie of Craigiehall. The difficulty of fixing some of these more precisely arises from the bearings not being coloured or hatched to represent colouring.

The communion cups, dated 1643, are of rather curious form, being narrow and deep, with a long stalk and foot like a wine glass. The workmanship is rude, and they have been made in three pieces, and roughly soldered together. What is remarkable, as shewing the state of the arts at the time, is, that there is a border round the foot, which appears to have been a ribband of metal, figured in a cress, or chased in a rolling machine, then turned round till the ends met, and the ring thus made rudely soldered to the foot of the cup, in the same manner as chased plate brass articles are done in the present day. The silver is whiter and brighter than the most of modern plate.

*Modern Buildings.*—The town is beautifully situated on a rising ground immediately above a small bay adjoining the Frith, with a south exposure. It consists of a main street, and a smaller one branching off it, besides some wynds. There have been many houses built or rebuilt within the last twenty years, so that the place has been considerably extended and improved. It contains a new church, replacing that which was burnt in 1825, a new school-house,



and a grain stock-market, all of most handsome appearance, and a curious and rather lofty stone pillar at the cross ; also a town-house, and a Meeting-house belonging to the United Associate Synod. There is a building intended for a Lazarette between Inverkeithing and the Ferry, which, however, had been little used for a dozen of years past, and was sold last year by Government for a trifling sum, having a heavy feu-duty upon it,—the frigate Dartmouth, stationed in St Margaret's Hope, being now employed for the quarantine service in its stead. The buildings in this neighbourhood are of white sandstone or greenstone.

### III.—POPULATION.

According to the return made to Dr Webster this was in	1755.	1694
By an accurate private list made in	1793,	2210
By the Government census	1801,	2228
	1811,	2400
	1821,	2512
	1831,	3189

Of this last return, 1569 are males, and 1620 females.

The number residing in the burgh is 2020, being 978 males, and 1042 females ; in the village of North Ferry, 434, being 203 males, and 231 females ; in that of Hillend, 279, being 146 males, and 133 females ; and in the country part of the parish, 458, being 243 males, and 215 females.

The increase in the number of parishioners between 1821 and 1831 is 677. This great increase may be partly accounted for by the establishment of a large distillery between these periods, but it arose principally from a large influx of labourers employed about 1831, to work in the greenstone quarries supplying materials for the extension of Leith pier, and the erection of the new bridge at Stirling. These quarries being abandoned upon the completion of the works, the labourers and their families have gone elsewhere, and it is supposed that the population is not now so numerous as in 1831.

The number of families was in 1831, 712, of inhabited houses 438, and of other houses, 12. The average number of a family nearly  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

There are two persons only of independent fortune residing in the parish, and one of them is but a very small proprietor in it. There are no noblemen resident, and but one of the larger heritors. The proprietors of lands in the parish of more than L. 50 rental, are 11 in number.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

There are 25 occupiers of land, employing sixty-eight labourers

or servants, and there are 282 males engaged as retail-dealers, or in handicraft trades, either as masters or workmen.

*Agriculture.*—From the number of heritors in the parish, and the accurate measurement of many of the lands being unknown, and also from the many subdivisions of lands, nothing approaching even to a good approximation of the number of acres in it could be obtained without actual admeasurement, or a very great degree of trouble in collecting information, often inaccurate. It may be stated, however, in general, that almost every piece of ground capable of cultivation is under the plough; that there is but a very small proportion of wood, and that chiefly young; and that there is no pasture excepting a small quantity on the steepest acclivities of the hills. There are no commons. The lowest rent of land in the parish is L. 1, 5s. the highest approaches L. 4, per acre; but as many of the rents are partly in grain, convertible at the fiars' prices, they are of course variable. The average rent is nearer the higher than the lower rate. From the vicinity to Edinburgh, the rate of labour, and the prices of raw produce and manufactures, are regulated by the prices there. The husbandry follows different systems of rotation. The crops raised are, wheat, barley, oats, beans and pease, potatoes, hay, turnips. Much waste land from moss has, of late years, been reclaimed in the upper part of the parish, and there has been a great deal of draining, some of it tile, but the most of the farmers prefer stones, as better, and also more economical. A good many sloop loads of manure are imported from Leith. The leases are almost, without exception, for nineteen years. Many of the farm buildings have lately been erected in the most commodious style; they are almost all good, and the fields are well enclosed with thorn hedges chiefly, though sometimes with stone walls.

*Quarries.*—Greenstone for building, paving, and road-making, is quarried in several places, and often sent off by sea. A good many years ago, great quantities were shipped from the Ferry hills for paving the streets of London; but the granite of Aberdeen is now preferred for that purpose. Sandstone is also quarried in two places, chiefly for exportation coastwise, and limestone in several, for home consumption, or sending to a distance by sea. These are wrought by the aid of gunpowder, wedges, and levers,—the workmen being particular in keeping a face upon the quarry. There are no mines. There are no coal-pits, though there are many closely adjoining in the neighbouring parishes.



*Fisheries.*—The herring fishery in winter was once of great importance, but for several years back it has been all but annihilated. There is a very trifling stake-net salmon fishery.

*Produce.*—No estimate of the quantity of raw produce raised in the parish can be given, for the reasons mentioned above.

*Manufactures.*—There is a large distillery in which whisky is made, both for the English and home markets, by Coffey's patent steam apparatus. There are also two foundries in the parish, where large articles are cast, and steam-engines and other machinery made. There is a tan-work, a ship-building yard, a salt-work, a magnesia manufactory, and a brick-work, where very excellent fire-bricks are made, and also chimney cans of elegant patterns, and other ornamental work, exactly resembling a fine freestone. A mill driven by steam has also been erected for crushing bones for agricultural purposes. These bones are chiefly imported from abroad, and are exported when ground down to supply the consumption of the east coast of Scotland,—little of them being used in the district. There are two mills for making meal and flour, and a barley mill. A considerable number of the usual tradesmen reside in the parish, and also some weavers employed by the damask table cloth-manufacturers of Dunfermline. The distillery employs about 80 men when in operation, the two foundries from 40 to 50, and there are a considerable number of carpenters in the building yard. The usual time of working is ten hours a day; the employments are healthy and the payment good.

*Navigation.*—There are twenty vessels of from 20 to 100 tons burden belonging to the port, employed chiefly in the coasting trade. A considerable number of foreign and English vessels load coal here, and some occasionally bring bark, timber, and bones to be ground down for manure.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is in this parish, the burgh of the same name, having, as before stated, a population of 2020. It has not much trade, the coal and stone shipped here being brought from the interior parts. The distillery is carried on by a company. The whisky made is chiefly sent to the London market. Fire-bricks, and a little magnesia are also exported; but there are no import or export merchants in the proper sense of the word. There are two villages, North Ferry and Hillend.

*Means of Communication.*—There is in the burgh a principal or assorting post-office, from which bags are daily dispatched

to the neighbouring places and chief towns. At about a mile from the North Ferry the main road sends branches to Torryburn, Dunfermline, and Kirkaldy, respectively running nearly three, and two miles through the parish,—the great north road from which these strike off extending through it for six miles. There are two four-horse coaches, which run every lawful day from Edinburgh through the burgh, one to Perth, and the other to Aberdeen, besides the mail daily. There are two two-horse coaches between Dunfermline and Edinburgh, which pass within a little distance of the burgh. There is also an easy communication from North Ferry by several steam-boats to Leith, Stirling, and intermediate ports. The bridges in the parish are small, the streams being of a trifling description. The fences on the sides of the public roads in several places are certainly not the best in the parish. There is an iron rail-road, made about twenty-five years ago, replacing a wooden one of a much older date, used for conveying coals from Halbeath, and stone to be shipped at the harbour. The length of it is five miles, one of which is within the parish, and three upon the very boundary between it and that of Dunfermline. The harbour is a pretty good one, and may be greatly improved and deepened by the removal of the mud. Vessels of 200 tons burden can load and sail from it at the spring-tides; but it is generally frequented by smaller vessels.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated in the middle of the burgh. The town population are all within five minutes walk of it, and the greater part of the country people within two miles; about an hundred may be farther distant; but none farther than three miles except the inhabitants of one family in a small cottage. It was built in 1826, replacing the one which was partly burnt the year before, and is in a good state of repair. No benefactions are on record. The church has a handsome appearance, commodious and elegant within, and ornamented with two rows of pillars running through it, having arches in the style of a Gothic cathedral. There is a very old steeple adjoining the west end of it, containing a large bell and a public clock. The building accommodates nearly a thousand persons. It has only one gallery, opposite the pulpit, which is allotted to the magistrates and council, and four of the principal heritors; but, by the erection of side galleries, which the heritors have pledged themselves to execute when necessary, it would contain about three hundred more;—almost the amount of accommodation legally required for the



whole population of the parish. Nearly the whole of the sittings are free. Two-thirds of them belong to the landward heritors, who give the use of them to their tenants and their servants, and many others. The other third belongs to the burgh, for the use of the inhabitants. An attempt was made to let those of the burgh, but so ill did it succeed, that, in the Treasurer's printed accounts for 1834, the sum received for seat rents, "is stated to be 7s." In the meantime, the people occupy these seats without ceremony. The manse was built in 1798, and has attached to it the usual legal accommodations, a barn, stable, byre, and washing-house. The garden wall is six feet high, with a coping. There was no manse before that date, but only an allowance of L. 40 Scots paid for house rent. There was a small manse of a "but and a ben" in the parish of Rosyth, which was pulled down about thirty years ago,—and at that place there are still the ruinous walls of the church and a considerable space of burying-ground, around it. There are two glebes,—one for each of the united parishes. They originally consisted of about 8 acres, but when excambed about twenty years ago, a greater quantity was given on account of the ground being inferior in quality, so that, including the grass ground, the glebe now amounts to  $12\frac{1}{2}$  acres, and might rent for about L. 40. The stipend has been thrice augmented since 1792; the last was in 1823, and is now seventeen chalders, half meal, and half barley, convertible at the county fiars, with L. 10 money for communion elements. It is understood that the free teinds are nearly exhausted. There is a dissenting meeting-house in the town, belonging to the United Associate Synod. The stipend of the minister is L. 130, paid from the seat rents, together with a house, garden, and small grass park. The patronage of the parish is held by Lady Baird Preston, relict of General Sir David Baird, Baronet. The number of families belonging to the Establishment, according to the minister's visitation list, is about 400, containing about 1625 persons,—the usual proportion of whom attend public worship in the church. The communicants are generally about 400. The number of persons in connection with the dissenters residing within the parish is, according to a list of the late incumbent, about 1125. The ministers and the people, both of the Established and the Dissenting churches, maintain a friendly intercourse with each other, and show a good feeling and a Christian spirit. The people in their general character are industrious and active, peaceable and contented, well affected, and much attached

to their ministers, and attend duly upon the public ordinances of religion. That are some Penny a-week Societies for missionary and religious purposes; and there are occasional collections made at the church door for Highland Schools, the India Mission, and other similar objects.

*Education.*—There is a parochial school, in which are taught English, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, French, geography, mathematics, &c. The teacher has the maximum salary; there is a good dwelling-house, and an elegant adjacent school-house. The school fees may amount to about L. 70. There are six private schools, in which the ordinary branches of education are taught, and in which the teachers are supported by the school fees alone. One is a female school for the higher and ornamental branches of education. There is also a Sabbath day school, which meets both before and after public worship, and is supported by subscriptions and collections, and attended by numerous scholars. The expense of education is moderate, being per quarter 3s. for English; 4s. for English and writing; 5s. for arithmetic; 7s. for Latin; and the same for French. The number of scholars attending all these schools is very nearly 400.

*Literature.*—There are three libraries,—a subscription, a circulating, and a congregational one belonging to the dissenters, but none of them contain any great number of books.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor receiving parochial aid belonging to the Established Church, was, during last year (1835) 43. The accounts of the current year cannot be made up, until the end of it. The allowances given them vary from 6d. to 2s. 6d. per week, proportioned according to their wants. The collections at the church door are upon an average, L. 20 annually, and the subscription or assessment upon the heritors for the year above-mentioned was L. 110, out of which there are L. 10 given to the dissenters in aid of their paupers. There are some small salaries paid to clerks, and church-officers. The heritors pay according to their valued rents.

*Prisons.*—The jail is by no means secure,—several escapes have been made from it. Excepting a vagrant or rioter upon the streets, and that for a night, incarceration in this prison is a rare event. It is superintended by one of the town-officers.

*Fairs.*—There are 5 fairs appointed to be held in this burgh, which were once well attended by dealers in horses, cattle, and merchant's goods; but they are now merely nominal, no business



being done. There is, however, one upon the first week of August, which is frequented in the afternoon by numbers of people from the country districts. There being a horse and a foot race for small prizes given from the funds of the burgh, there is abundance of gingerbread and sweetmeats for sale, as well as drink, with many of which the people regale themselves and their friends in the public houses in the evening.

*Inns.*—Including the back shops of grocers, there are 23 houses in the burgh where spirits may be bought in small quantities, and drunk upon the premises. Two of them only are inns for the reception and entertainment of travellers. In the North Ferry, there are 13 such places, including the great inn, and a secondary one, and in the rest of the parish there are three, making in all 30; but some of these are required to accommodate passengers at North Ferry, and travellers upon the public road from Edinburgh to Perth and Inverness.

*Fuel.*—The fuel is coal of various kinds, procured from different pits, and at the distance of from four to seven miles from the burgh. The price, including carriage, may be from 5s. to 9s. per ton, according to the quality and distance from the colliery.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the Statistical Account in 1793 was published, a remarkable difference has taken place in the parish. The state of agriculture has been greatly advanced, and the general appearance of the town much improved. It is rather against the interest of the burgh, that none of the great heritors reside within the parish. The place is favourable for carrying on manufactories of various kinds, having numerous facilities,—yet no person of capital and enterprise has ever engaged in trade or commerce upon a large and extensive scale. There used to be some years ago, strong political contests in the burgh, which frequently led the parties to the Court of Session, and when these regarded the election of a Member of Parliament, they were sometimes carried to the House of Commons. This arose from the very peculiar set of the burgh. The members of council continued in office during life and residence, and the minority could not be turned out, and their places filled up with more friendly adherents. The struggle between the parties was thus kept up, and maintained with much activity and contentiousness. It is recorded in the session books, in 1720, “that the kirk-session unanimously twice postponed, and finally omitted the celebration of the sacrament at that time,” “on account of the great animositie and disagreement that is in the place.” Several

instances could be given at a latter period of the same political and contentious spirit. Matters are now more quietly and peaceably managed. The burgh and parliamentary elections excite no great interest among the inhabitants.

November 1836.

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## PARISH OF AUCHTERTOOL.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID GUILD, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—*Auchter* is said to be a Gaelic word, signifying a height, and *Tool* seems to be a corruption of Tiel, a rivulet which rises in the parish and runs through it; hence Auchtertool signifies the higher grounds on the Tiel. It does not appear that its name has undergone any alteration from that originally given it.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is about 3 miles long, and about  $1\frac{1}{2}$  wide on the average, comprising 4 square miles, equal to 2570 imperial acres. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Auchterderran; on the north-west, by the parish of Beath; on the south, by the parishes of Kinghorn, Burntisland, and Aberdour; on the east and north-east, it is at some points conterminous with the parishes of Kinghorn and Abbotshall.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Its figure is irregular, but approaches nearer to that of a parallelogram than any other regular figure. There is a range of hills at the west end of the parish, commonly called Cullalo hills; their acclivity on the south side is very steep, and the elevation of the highest above the level of the sea is 750 feet. In regard to each other, the difference of elevation is inconsiderable.

The climate is temperate and salubrious. The dryness of the soil throughout the most populous part of the parish, its moderate distance from the sea, and its elevation above it, must naturally contribute to its salubrity, and to the healthiness of its inhabitants.

*Hydrography.*—There are springs by which the inhabitants of this parish are abundantly supplied with water; some of these are



intermittent ; but generally they are perennial. The former being produced by the excess of surface water, are commonly impure, and the water of course fit for few purposes ; but the latter are sufficiently numerous and copious for the accommodation and comfort of the inhabitants. Some of these seem to flow from freestone, others from whinstone. There are no mineral springs in the parish. There is not a river ; but there are several perennial streams of water, which run through the parish, one of which runs into Camilla-loch, situated near the east end of the parish. The loch derives its name Camilla from the old house of Camilla, anciently called Hallyards, belonging to the family of the Skenes ; but acquired the name of Camilla from the residence of one of the Countesses of Moray, whose name was Campbell. It contains perch, pike, and eels. Its surface extends to 18 acres ; its greatest depth is 22 feet. The site of the loch is capable of much ornamental and not unprofitable improvement. Its north side is bounded by a steep eminence covered with furze, interspersed with spots of a rocky substance appearing through them, which nature seems to have intended for wood plantation, as it is fit for nothing else. There are grounds scattered around it of the same description. These, covered with plantations, with the ruin of the ancient house of Hallyards, together with remaining traces of old baronial style, adjacent to the loch, would present to the eye a romantic and interesting aspect.

There are two cascades, one of which is on the boundary of the south side of the parish. There is another contiguous to Camilla loch, at the head of a deep narrow ravine, the sides of which are extremely steep, rising in nearly a perpendicular direction. They consist of rugged rocks interspersed with spots of soil, where some very rare plants are to be found, and, accordingly, it is occasionally the resort of botanists. The streams of water which form these cascades are commonly small ; but after a heavy fall of rain, or effectual thaw of snow, they swell to a considerable extent.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—There are freestone, trap, or whinstone, and limestone in the parish. The first is not in much repute, and is seldom wrought. The second is used chiefly for road metal, rarely for building. The last, which is on the property of Lord Moray, and of Captain Erskine Wemyss, is wrought by their tenants, and exclusively for their farm purposes ; none has ever been wrought for sale. In the kinds of rocks mentioned no species of ore is found. There are various kinds of soil in the parish ; the loamy ; the clayey, partaking considerably of the nature of till ; and the mossy.

The first is the most productive ; some parts of the second, which have been drained and well cultivated, are little less fruitful ; but by far the greater part of this kind, remaining in its original wet and sour state, is much less productive. By far the greater part of the mossy is entire moss, and has never been cultivated : from its great depth, and the impracticability of draining, it seems incapable of cultivation. The loamy soil lies chiefly on the south side of the parish, where the climate is best ; the clayey and mossy on the north and west sides of the parish, where the climate is worse. The loamy soil varies from less than a foot to five feet deep. Its subsoil is what is commonly called rotten rock, which, when trenched and exposed to the varieties of weather, is soon converted into soil apparently of the same kind with the surface.

*Zoology.*—There are few species of animals here which are not to be found in the parishes bounding the north and west sides of this. The only species here not common to all other parishes, are a few grouse at the west end of the parish, and lapwings much more numerous. The heron, too, sometimes makes its appearance in winter. The live-stock consists almost wholly of horses and black-cattle. Of the former, few are purchased ; almost the whole of them are bred and reared by the farmers, for their farm purposes, rarely for sale ; and what are retained for farm-work are kept in high order, with full feeding and full work. Almost all the black-cattle in the parish are bred or reared in it ; few comparatively are purchased for feeding ; but as most of the farmers cannot have bred on their farm as many as are required to be reared for feeding and for sale, the deficiency is supplied by purchasing calves wherever they find them, in consequence of which the stock is invariably mixed ; but with regard to what is bred on the farms, the greatest care and judgment are exercised to obtain the best kind. The Fife breed is the kind generally preferred, and sought ; but if that breed exists pure, it is rarely if ever to be seen. There are many very good cows in Fife ; but it is doubted whether there be a pure Fife cow in the county. But though what would be preferred may not be obtained, yet the care and skill in breeding the choicest kinds to be had, appears in the value to which the animals are brought. One farmer has of late years preferred the Teeswater ; a kind not known to be bred or reared in the parish before. They came to great value ; some rising three years old have been sold at L. 20, when markets were low.

There is only one farm in the parish, on which any sheep are



grazed ; and it is within the last three years, that these have been introduced ; they are all of the Cheviot breed. About 360 are purchased annually, about the month of July, and sold again at different times, according as they advance to condition for the shambles, till the whole be sold off, to give place for a new lot at the usual time of purchasing. They have been found a profitable species of stock. On the farm alluded to, the number is on the increase, and though the parish be rather adapted to corn growing than grazing, yet the success of the experiment already made, is so decided, and so well known, that that species of stock is likely to become more numerous in the parish.

*Botany.*—There is a great variety of plants, among which the rarer species are the *Imperatoria ostruthium* (at Camilla ruins ; ) *Gagea lutea*, *Petasites albus*, *Saxifraga umbrosa*, *Viola odorata*, (Auchtertool Linn.) A few trees, scattered throughout the parish, are to be seen, but not the semblance of a plantation. However, as that species of improvement has lately advanced to the very boundaries of the parish, it is to be hoped that it will not stop there. There are many places within its bounds which invite the planter, encouraging him by holding out to view an improvement both profitable and ornamental. There is little doubt that the capability of these grounds will in course draw the attention of the Noble proprietor, whose taste, like that of his noble ancestors, for both useful and ornamental improvements (particularly plantation) is so apparent in other parts of his extensive domains.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—With the exception of three portions of land held in feu from Lord Moray, amounting to twenty acres or thereabout, the Earl of Moray and Captain Erskine Wemyss are the only land-owners in the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—These extend as far back as 1670 ; but till within the last fifty or sixty years, they have been very irregularly kept.

*Modern Buildings.*—There are none in the parish worthy of particular remark. The church and manse will be noticed under the head Ecclesiastical State. All the other houses in the parish are of no ancient date, and consist of farms, villagers and cottagers' houses, and a corn mill, which are all built with stone and lime. Till within the last forty or fifty years, there was but one house in the parish covered with blue slate ; the rest were generally covered with wheat straw, a few with tile, and one with gray slate. Most

of the houses that have been built recently are covered with blue slate or tile. The use of thatch is almost universally relinquished in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1801,	-	396
1811,	-	501
1821,	-	536
1831,	-	527

The only apparent probable cause of the increase of population, is the progress of agricultural improvement. By that and the increased attention to the improvement of roads, a much greater number of labourers is necessary for the latter, and many more, both of males and females, are in demand for the former now, than in former times, whose labour is remunerated with ample wages; and though the price of their labour does occasionally rise and fall somewhat, yet it is much more steady and uniform than that of the labour of operatives in manufactures. The demand for country labour too, scarcely ever varies, if it does not increase. But the same cannot be said of the labour of operatives in manufacturing towns. Formerly too, females were but little employed in agricultural work; but, with the progress of improvement, the demand for their labour has increased so much that every farmer prefers for his cottager, the man who has daughters that will work in his field, for which they are liberally paid. Their labour consists in hoeing potatoes, in hoeing and hand-weeding turnips, and other drilled crops. In harvest they are employed in reaping, and of course receive reaper's wages. Nor are they without employment in winter. They are frequently employed at thrashing-mills, and in pulling and preparing turnips for cattle. It is obvious that, in this state of things, there is a tendency to induce the labouring classes of both sexes to resort to country villages and cottar-houses for residence, where employment is always to be had. The rate of wages, compared with the price of grain, is always high, and less fluctuating than in trade and manufactures; accordingly the number of village and cottar-houses has been increasing, and latterly with great rapidity.

Number of persons residing in two villages,	-	-	404
in the country,	-	-	128
The yearly average of marriages for the last 7 years,	-	-	6
of births,	-	-	11
No registers of deaths.			
The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	176
between 15 and 30,	-	-	136
30 and 50,	-	-	124
50 and 70,	-	-	69
upwards of 70,	-	-	27



Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards,	2
Number of bachelors upwards of 50 years of age,	7
of widowers	8
of widows,	12
of unmarried women upwards of 45 years of age,	24
of families,	125
Average number of children in each family,	3½
Of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	27
in trade, manufacture, and handicraft,	32
Number of inhabited houses,	116
of houses uninhabited,	6
No insane or fatuous.	
One blind, (the disease not natural, but contracted.)	
None deaf or dumb.	

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The people are without any thing peculiar in their manners or customs, and enjoy, in a reasonable degree, the comforts suitable to their respective places in society, and are moral and religious, regular in their attendance on divine service, and in their observance of the ordinances of the gospel.

During the last three years, there were 4 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture.*—

According to the best information to which the writer of this Account has had access, the number of acres of standard imperial measure which are either cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, is	1660
Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture,	900
Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in pasture,	450

*Rent of Land.*—Average rent of arable land per imperial acre in the parish L. 1, 3s. ; average rent of grazing, rating it at L. 2, 6s. per cow or full-grown ox, grazed for the season, or 10s. per sheep, grazed for the year, is, per imperial acre, L. 1, 3s. The real rent of the parish is L. 2165.

*Husbandry.*—The rotations generally adopted in the parish are as follows : viz. First rotation, 1. green crop ; 2. wheat, barley, or oats, with grass seeds ; 3. hay ; 4. oats. Second rotation, 1. green crop ; 2. wheat, barley, or oats, with grass seeds ; 3. pasture ; 4. pasture ; 5. oats.

*Rate of Labour.*—Ploughmen for the year, L. 12, with victuals ; labourers for the day in summer, without victuals, 1s. 8d. to 2s. 6d., in winter 1s. 6d. to 2s. ; women's wages in summer without victuals 9d. per day, in winter 7d. In harvest, men with victuals generally 2s. per day ; women with victuals 1s. 6d. per day, wrights and masons by the day, without victuals, in summer, 3s., in winter, 2s. to 2s. 6d.

*Prices.*—The selling price, in common years, of the different kinds of grain grown in the parish may be rated as follows: Wheat, L. 2, 13s. 10d.; barley, L. 1, 9s. 11d.; oats, L. 1, 2s. 4d. per imperial quarter.

*The average price of different articles of parochial produce required for the purpose of domestic economy.*—Oat-meal per imperial stone, 1s. 7½d.; pot barley, 2d per imperial lb.; cheese made of milk after the cream is taken from it, 4d. per imperial lb.; ditto made with the cream in it, 6d. per imperial lb.; eggs per dozen, 6d.; hens each 1s. 6d.; chickens, 7d. each; potatoes, 1s. 6d. per bushel.

*Live-Stock.*—Of late years, the farmer's attention has been turned to the rearing and feeding of black-cattle, much more than in former times, when the price of grain was higher. They find that this branch of husbandry makes a better return in money, than the growing of grain at the low prices, during a currency of years past; while it enriches the land, by increasing the quantity of manure. Accordingly, the growing of turnips and potatoes is now much increased. Every farmer is desirous to have as much land in pasture, and green crop, as the nature and extent of his farm will allow.

Till within these last three or four years, little had been done in draining and reclaiming waste land. There is but one farm in the parish, on which either of these improvements has been carried to any considerable extent. On the farm alluded to, much has been done in both. The same improvements are becoming more general in the parish than formerly; but the progress is slow. The reclaimed lands extend to 40 acres or thereby; they consist chiefly of eminences formerly covered with furze, on some parts of which the soil was extremely thin. But the nature of the subsoil renders it comparatively easy to add to its depth. The subsoil consists of what is commonly called rotten rock, which, when turned up by the plough, or any other implement, (though in pieces similar to that of road metal,) is soon reduced by the varieties of weather, and converted into fertile soil. Where the plough may not be convenient and efficient, the pick and spade can be used with complete success; and the labour, though more expensive, will still be profitable. In this way, the thin soil on the tops of knolls, in which some fields in the parish abound, might be deepened at a cost which the improvement would amply repay. The present manse garden was made of a piece of ground where the average depth of soil did not exceed two inches. It was



trenched with the pick and the spade, planted with potatoes the subsequent spring, the crop of which repaid the outlay; and now it is excellent garden ground.

On the farm alluded to, draining also has been carried to considerable extent, and is still progressing. Surface draining is the kind appropriate to the nature of the soil there, and also to the chief portion of land in the parish, where draining is necessary. On the north side of the parish it consists chiefly of clay or till,—on some parts, with a thin surface of softer mould. Of course, the efficiency of the drains depends much on their closeness to one another. Till of late, that method of draining seems to have been little understood in the parish, as it has been resorted to only recently, and there remains great scope for the extension of that improvement.

*Leases.*—The general duration of leases is nineteen years. In most if not in all cases, it would be advantageous both to proprietor and tenant, to have the leases extended a few years longer. It would give greater encouragement to the tenant to lay out capital on permanent improvement, by holding out to his view a more certain prospect of remuneration for that outlay. The nature and condition of the farm, the nature and extent of the improvement it needs, and of which it is capable, ought to determine the length of the lease.

*Farm-Buildings and Inclosures.*—With the exception of one, every farm in the parish is accommodated with buildings adequate to its value and extent, and in a good state of repair. The same cannot be said of farm inclosures.

The parish is almost all inclosed, partly with stone dikes, and partly with thorn hedges. Part of the former is new and substantial, the rest is less sufficient. As to the hedges, there is not an enclosure sufficiently fenced, where a hedge is the fence. This is owing to the very general inattention to the proper method of planting and training, together with the no less frequent neglect of cleaning. Instead of the plants being assorted, and the weak planted apart from the strong, they are mixed together, and thus the former are hurt and kept down by the more vigorous growth of the latter. In training, too, instead of cutting only the lateral growth till the hedge has advanced to the height at which it is intended to remain, the top is cut as often as the sides; and in this way the hedge is converted into a thicket of small twigs, without stamina sufficient to resist the force of cattle attempting to penetrate through it. Cleaning, too, is seldom sufficiently attended to;

and from these causes, together with the various accidents to which hedges are liable, there is not a field in the parish sufficiently inclosed where a hedge is the fence. In all cases, to mend a hedge is difficult; but throughout this parish the hedges, in many parts, are so far gone, that to reclaim them effectually is impracticable.

*Quarries.*—There are several whinstone quarries opened in the parish, for metal to the turnpike and other roads; also a free-stone quarry, used sometimes for building village and other cottar houses. The stone is of inferior quality, and is never wrought for sale. There is a limestone quarry on Lord Moray's ground; also one on Captain Erskine Wemyss's property, which the tenants are permitted to work for farm purposes exclusively; none is wrought for sale.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is exhibited under the following heads:

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man, or domestic animals,	-	-	-	-	-	L. 4849
Of potatoes and turnips,	-	-	-	-	-	2184
Of hay, both cultivated and meadow,	-	-	-	-	-	1200
Of land in pasture, rating it at L. 2, 6s. for cow or full grown ox, or sheep at 10s. pastured for the year,	-	-	-	-	-	989
Of cottagers and villagers gardens,	-	-	-	-	-	40

Total yearly value, L. 9262

*Manufactures.*—The only thing in the parish that may be considered as allied to manufactures, is an extensive brewery in the village of Auchtertool, which has been long in good repute for its ales, porter, and table-beer. It supplies private families, inns, and alehouses in various places, but the greater part of its ales are usually shipped at Kirkaldy for London.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Kirkaldy is five miles distant from the centre of the parish, where an excellent grain stock-market is held every Saturday; a cattle-market thrice a-year, and a weekly market for butter and cheese.

*Villages.*—There are two villages in the parish, Auchtertool and Newbigging, the former containing a population of 329, the latter of 75.

*Means of Communication.*—There is no post-office in the parish, nor does any post-office runner pass within five miles of its boundaries,—an inconvenience very much felt. However, there are other means of communication which the parish enjoys. 1. The turnpike road between Kirkaldy and Dunfermline runs rather



more than three miles through the parish, and through the most populous part of it—the two villages. About six years ago, a coach commenced running between Kirkaldy and Glasgow on that road, leaving Kirkaldy at half an hour past six o'clock in the morning in summer, at seven in winter, and returning in the afternoon about six o'clock.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the church, with reference to the boundaries of the parish, is central, but inconvenient for the greater part of the population. The villages, which contain by far the greater part of it, are a mile distant from the church. In 1833, it was thoroughly repaired, and much improved. Its interior is finished in a plain, but neat style. It affords accommodation for 280 sitters, and the sittings are all free.

The manse was built in 1812 in the cottage style, and of Gothic architecture. It is substantially built, handsomely finished, and affords sufficient accommodation. The plan was furnished by Mr Gillespie Graham, architect.

The glebe, including the site of the manse and the garden, contains six imperial acres or thereby, of good dry arable land. The money rent, together with the value of services performed by the tenant, is equal to L. 5, 5s. per imperial acre. There is no grass glebe. The stipend is the minimum, the funds are exhausted, and the sum of L. 81, 9s. is paid annually from the Exchequer, to make up the stipend to L. 150.

The number of families attending the Established Church, 92; number of families attending the chapels of dissenters and seceders 23. The younger branches of two of these families attend the Established Church. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended. The average number of communicants there is 185. The average amount of church collections yearly for religious and charitable purposes, L. 12, 14s.

*Education.*—There are 3 schools in the parish;—the parochial school, a private school, and an infant school. The branches of instruction taught in the parochial school are, reading, English, writing, and arithmetic. Greek and Latin are very rarely required. The branches taught in the private school, are the same as in the parochial school. In the infant school, are taught reading English, writing, arithmetic, needle-work, and knitting. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 29, 18s. 10d. The teacher of the private school receives a gratuity of L. 15 per annum from Miss Boswell of Balmuto, at whose expense he is fur-

nished with a school-room also. The infant school is taught by a female, and admits girls only between two and six years old. The teacher receives from Miss Boswell of Balmuto L. 20 per annum, together with a dwelling-house, small garden, and school-room. The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodations, dwelling house, school-room, and garden.

The rates of school fees are, per quarter, reading English, 2s. ; reading English and writing, 2s. 6d. ; arithmetic and writing, 3s. Latin, 5s. The cost of books, stationery, &c. is commonly nearly equal to the fee.

There are no young persons in the parish betwixt six and fifteen years of age who cannot read ; and none upwards of fifteen years of age who can neither read nor write. The people in general duly appreciate the benefits of education, and parents in particular feel deep interest in the education of their children. This appears in the average amount of children attending the three schools in the parish, 150.

*Literature.*—There is a parish library in the village of Auchtertool, established in March 1824. It was established and books purchased, with contributions from the families of Donibristle and Balmuto, and from the minister of the parish. The library, and all its concerns, are under the direction of such of these original contributors as choose to attend to it, whether one or more. The library is now furnished with 215 volumes, consisting of history, travels, voyages, and books on moral and religious subjects.

*Savings-Bank.*—A savings-bank was established in the year 1827. The following is a tabular view of the sums invested yearly, compared with the sums annually withdrawn, the last seven years.

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Deposited.</i>	<i>Withdrawn.</i>
1830,	L. 37 13 6	L. 78 8 9
1831,	56 8 10	39 13 6
1832,	77 16 10	15 9 9
1833,	35 8 7	106 3 10
1834,	82 5 10	72 7 5
1835,	99 18 3	44 13 11
1836,	148 3 0	95 10 7

Balance remaining in the bank at this time, L. 267, 17s. 7d.

It is to be regretted that the greater part of the above deposits belongs not to that class, for whose benefit saving banks have been established, viz. house-servants, day labourers and others, who have not means to enable them to deposit such sums as ordinary banks will receive ; but who may deposit in the savings bank small sums down to 1s. which may well be spared from ample wages well paid.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There has never been an instance



of public begging in the parish. The poor derive their aid from the parish funds. Four years ago the number receiving parochial aid was 6. Since that date, it has never been less, and now it amounts to 9. To most of the number, the monthly allowance also is increased. There is usually some difference in the several allowances, but their average at present is 3s. per month to each pauper. Six of the nine enjoy, together with their money allowance, free apartments in houses belonging to the kirk-session for behoof of the poor, with a small portion of garden ground attached to each. Two old persons who have no money allowances enjoy the same privilege. The paupers, and also a few poor householders, receive annually in winter, at the cost of the parish funds, as many coals as two farmer's horses can draw in a cart, which the farmers very cheerfully drive gratis. The value of each cartful, at the present high rate of coals (driving included) may be stated at 9s. 6d. or 10s.

The yearly amount of monthly allowances and of cost of coals distributed, is L. 18, 16s. 6d. The sources from whence funds are derived to meet that expenditure, are various; and the following is a statement of their variety and amount. The annual average amount of church door collections L. 12, 14s; mortcloth dues, L. 2, 10s; rent of two houses, L. 4, 10s; interest of money, L. 4, 5s. The income apparently exceeds the expenditure, as from the above statement there appears an annual surplus of L. 5, 2s. 6d. That surplus is exhausted by precentors and session-clerks' fees, and dues to synod and presbytery Clerk. Hitherto the poor have been supported by these resources. The heritors have never been called on for the aid of assessment. How long this state of things may continue, it is not easy to say. Times were, when parochial relief was considered as degrading to name and character; but these times are gone, and the noble Scottish spirit of independence seems to have gone with them. In the minds of many, the idea of degradation is never associated with the idea of parochial relief. They consider it as an heritage not discreditable, and bring forward their claims with a boldness that would better become a creditor demanding payment of a just debt.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are no inns, but six ale-houses in the village of Auchtertool, certainly unfavourable to the morals of the people.

*Fuel.*—The only kind of fuel used in the parish is coal. It is to be had at four places, each about four miles distant from the vil-

lage of Auchtertool. One of these collieries belongs to Lord Moray, from which, and from collieries in the parish of Auchterderran, this parish is supplied. The price of coal is now advanced to a very high rate. The former Statistical Account states that the price of as many as two horses could draw easily in a cart, was then 1s. 6d. and the same for driving them home. The same quantity of best coal now, driving included, costs 6s. 7d.; and of inferior coal, 5s. 8d.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The agricultural state of the parish now is very different from what it was at the date of the former Statistical Account. Improvement by draining and reclaiming waste land, was then scarcely visible in the parish. The implements of agriculture, particularly the plough, is much improved. The iron plough is generally used; emulation prevails among the ploughmen; the natural effects of which are visible in the state of the land, when it receives the seed, and in the progress of its growth till the crop be reaped. In few places, is foulness amongst the crops to be seen at any stage of their progress.

To that improved state of cultivation, the extension of green crop has contributed not a little; which of late years has been rendered practicable to a greater extent, by the introduction of bone-dust. It is particularly well adapted to turnip crops, which enables the farmer to transfer the quantity of common manure, formerly required for turnip, to land for raising potatoes. From 20 to 30 acres of turnips are annually raised with bone-dust, which may be supposed to increase to that extent the number of acres of green crop.

After the grain crops are ready for the barn, the use of thrashing-mills makes the preparation for the market speedy and easy. That useful piece of machinery saves much time and labour, which of course is beneficially made over to other work; and when any casualty occurs unexpectedly, requiring grain to be sent to market, it is in the power of the farmer to accommodate to the case;—within a few hours after warning, he can have prepared an ample stock for market on the following day. At the date of the last Statistical Account, there was but one thrashing-mill in the parish; now they are in general use; one of them is wrought by steam power.

But though agricultural improvement be strikingly obvious in most parts of the parish, and some advance apparent in the rest, there is still considerable scope for its further progress. In some places, fences need to be mended, in other places renewed, and many



acres require to be drained. While these remain without drains, probably the use of the trench-plough would be beneficial. The soil is clay and till, and, if not broken and opened by some implement, is quite impervious to water. Of course the surface water subsides no deeper than the common plough furrow; there it rests at the roots of the grain plants, by which their growth is impeded, and their fruitfulness diminished. But if the impervious soil below the ordinary furrow were opened and broken by the trench-plough, a considerable portion of the water would subside to the bottom of its furrows, and the roots would in some measure be relieved from the pernicious effects they had been previously suffering. The use of the same implement would be no less beneficial to the dry lands; it would give fresh vigour and fertility by turning up soil which had been years at rest. In some places too, where there is want of sufficient depth of soil, a considerable addition would be acquired from the subsoil, consisting of what is commonly called rotten rock; which, when turned up and exposed to the air, the varieties of weather,—wet and dry, soon pulverise and convert into fertile soil. The period within which and the places where the plough is to be applied, the rotation of crops must in a great measure regulate; and by considering and having respect to the rotation, the judicious farmer will be qualified to lay down a proper rule for himself, with regard both to the periods and places.

The moderate distance of Auchtertool from the grain corn market in Kirkaldy, with a turnpike road between them, is very advantageous to the agriculture of this parish, and that advantage might be increased by altering the line of road. The road is kept in good repair, but the line of road is objectionable. There are several hard pulls in it, which would be avoided by another line without a pull in it. The preferable line is so obvious, that the manner in which carriage was performed, and the imperfect manner in which roads formerly were made and kept, can alone account for its not being preferred at first. Carriage was then performed on horseback, and, as ridges were generally driest, they were preferred as the lines of roads.

There is also a turnpike road from Auchtertool to Kinghorn and Pettycur, but the numerous severe pulls in it, render it nearly useless for carriage. On that road, a horse would be oppressed with half the load that he could draw to Kirkaldy, notwithstanding the objection to the line of that road which has been stated. Ac-

cordingly, the road by the West Bridge at Link-Town of Abbots-hall, though nearly three miles longer than the direct road, is sometimes preferred for carriages. It is fortunate, however, for the parish of Auchtertool, that the road to Kinghorn and Pettycur is not of such importance to its agricultural interest as that to Kirkaldy, to which the chief part of the parish produce is carried for market.

The progress of improvement in agriculture has contributed much to meliorate the condition of the people. With its progress, the demand for their labour has increased, and the rate of wages advanced accordingly; both cottars and villagers occupy better houses than they did forty years ago. In the former Statistical Account, it is stated, "that men and women's wages had risen greatly of late; that men-servants used to get L. 6 Sterling for the year, and women L. 2, 10s., but that then a man-servant received L. 8, and a woman L. 3 for the year." At the present date men-servants get L. 12, and women L. 6, some L. 7 for the year. The rate of wages for the day-labourers has risen in proportion; and in comparison with former times, the comforts of the labouring class of the community are greatly increased.

These benefits, however, are not unmerited; for though the price of labour be higher in proportion to the price of grain now than in former times, the labour is more profitable to the farmer. The servant labours harder; and his work being under more judicious and skilful direction, being more profitably applied, and better performed, is consequently more productive than formerly. The time was, when a considerable portion of time, in summer, was occupied by the farm-servants in pulling thistles out of the corn to supper their horses at night. So that, though the wages be advanced to a higher rate, comparatively, the labour being more productive, is in fact not more costly. Accordingly, the farmer's comfort is very much enlarged, and his style of living very much altered and improved. Landlord, tenant, and farm-servant have each their due proportion of the benefits derived from agricultural improvement.

*November 1836.*



## PARISH OF SCOONIE.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE BREWSTER, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—IN the old parochial Records, the name of this parish is written *Scuny*; and must be of considerable antiquity, as we learn from Chalmers's *Caledonia*, that the church of *Scuny* was granted by Malduin, Bishop of St Andrew's, to the Culdees of Loch Leven, about the end of the eleventh century.

*Extent, &c.*—This parish extends about 4 miles in length from N. to S., and nearly 2 in breadth, and forms the figure of a cone, with its base upon the Frith of Forth. The river Leven washes its western boundary, and separates it from the parish of Wemyss, and a detached part of the parish of Markinch. Kennoway, Kettle, and Cults bound it on the north, and Largo on the east; and “at the north-east extremity, the three parishes of Scoonie, Largo, and Ceres, and the three presbyteries of Kirkaldy, St Andrews, and Cupar meet in one point.” The ground rises from S. to N., with a gentle slope, and, at the highest point is about 700 feet above the level of the sea. There are no hills, but several swells or risings of the ground, which command a very extensive and beautiful prospect of the Forth and its southern shore. The coast, above one mile in length, is flat and sandy, without a rock in its whole extent, and forms part of Largo bay.

The climate is in general mild and temperate, especially on the coast, except when the sea breeze sets in during the spring months, and then the atmosphere is loaded with moisture, and the wind cold and penetrating.

*Hydrography.*—There are few springs of good water in the parish, and only one deserving of notice. It rises in a sandy flat, not far from the sea beach, and has received the name of “the boiling well,” from its bubbling appearance as it issues through the sand. The discharge from this spring is copious, and the water of the purest quality, but its distance from the town renders

it of little use. The river Leven, the only one in the county, noticed by Buchanan, issues from the loch of the same name, and, after flowing through a fertile vale and receiving many tributaries, discharges itself into Largo bay, at the town of Leven. It abounds with various kinds of trout, pike, and eels, and at its estuary there was formerly a valuable salmon-fishing; but, owing to the formation of some of the dam-dikes, which prevent the salmon from ascending the river, and also to the deleterious substances from the bleachfields, which are mixed with its waters, this fishing has been discontinued for several years.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—Beds of coal, varying in thickness, and at different depths under the surface, pervade the whole of the parish; but none of the seams are at present worked. The coal upon the estate of Durie, which was wrought for upwards of a century, and was drained by a water engine, consisted of three seams, the two upper, each four feet thick, and the lower eight feet. There is understood to be a fourth seam below these, called the *craw coal*, the cropping of which comes out about 120 yards south-east of the mansion-house. The third seam, called the *main coal*, was considered the best in the county. Considerable quantities of it used to be exported to Holland, where it met with a ready sale; and it is said, even at this day, that the best Scotch coals in that market go under the name of Durie coals. The direction of the strata is from the N. W. to the S. E.; with one hitch or dike below the farm house of Banbeath, and another about a mile farther east. The following old table shows a section of Durie coal and metals, cut by a plane perpendicular to the streak, from the crop to the depth of forty fathoms.

	<i>Fathoms</i>	<i>Feet.</i>		<i>Fathoms</i>	<i>Feet.</i>
Earth metals,	7	0	Brought over,	24	2
Till,	0	3	Coal,	0	4
Greystone,	2	0	Dogger and hardstone,	1	0
Whitestone,	2	1	Broats and hardstone,	1	0
Till,	3	3	Broats,	1	3
Hardstone,	1	1	Till,	3	0
Till,	1	5	Dogger and stone,	2	0
Coal,	0	4	Grey broats,	1	0
Rachel,	1	0	Whitestone,	1	3
Reddish-stone,	1	1	Broats and till,	1	3
Hard band,	1	0	Hardstone,	0	3
Irregular metals,	1	0	Till irregular,	1	1
Soft till,	1	2	Main coal,	1	2
	<hr/>	<hr/>		<hr/>	<hr/>
	24	2		40	0

About the year 1802, a bore was put down near Scoonie bridge, which reached the bottom of the *main coal*, at the depth of 53



fathoms. This bore, besides the upper seams of coal, passed through a stratum of ochre upwards of 4 feet thick, and three seams of fire-clay, two of which are of the finest quality. These operations were preparatory to working the main coal; but the proprietor died soon after, and his heirs are under entail.

A bed of ochre four feet thick, lying on the estates of Durie and Aithernie, has been wrought for several years, of which a considerable quantity is exported.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The town of Leven is a burgh of barony holding under the family of Durie; but, having no local government till very lately, it possesses no records, and there is nothing worthy of remark in its history. There is a very accurate plan of the estate of Durie, which comprehends about three-fifths of the parish; but there has been no general survey of the parish.

*Eminent Men.*—Of the family of Gibson, the former proprietors of Durie, was Sir Alexander Gibson, Lord Durie, a Lord of Session, and collector of the reports, well known in the Scottish law, under the title of *Durie's Decisions*. Of this judge, a remarkable circumstance is recorded, which indicates a very unsettled state of society, and shews with what a feeble hand the authority of the Government was administered, when such an outrage could be committed with impunity, and even without inquiry. In the early part of the seventeenth century, the then Earl of Traquair had a law-suit depending before the Court of Session, which was of great importance to his family; and, having reason to believe that the opinion of Lord Durie was unfavourable to his interest, he employed Willie Armstrong, a noted freebooter of these times, to convey his Lordship out of the way, until the cause should be decided. Accordingly, when the Judge was taking his usual airing on horse-back upon Leith sands, he was forcibly dragged from his horse by Armstrong near the Figgate Whins, and carried blindfold to an old castle in Annandale, called the tower of Graham. Here he remained closely immured for three months, debarred from all intercourse with human kind, and receiving his food through an aperture in the wall. His friends had concluded him dead, and had gone into mourning, supposing that he had been thrown from his horse into the sea; but, upon the law-suit terminating in favour of Lord Traquair, he was brought back in the same mysterious manner, and set down upon the very spot where he had been taken up. Another Lord Durie, in 1652, was one of the commission-

ers sent from Scotland to treat with the English Parliament about the union of the kingdoms: and a laird of Durie of the same family sat in the first Scottish Parliament of Charles II. in 1660.

Mr Jerome Stone, a man remarkable for talent and erudition, was born in this parish, and of humble parents, about the year 1727. He commenced his career in life as a travelling chapman, and afterwards became an itinerant bookseller. Possessing a peculiar talent for acquiring languages, he became, by his own unaided exertions, one of the most eminent linguists of his time; but died in early life at the age of thirty, while schoolmaster of the parish of Dunkeld. At his death he was preparing for the press an "Inquiry into the original of the nation and language of the ancient Scots, with conjectures about the primitive state of the Celtic and other European Nations;" and he left in manuscript the well known allegory, entitled, "The Immortality of Authors," which has been often reprinted, and is a lasting monument of his lively fancy, sound judgment, and correct taste.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owners are, Charles Maitland Christie, Esq. proprietor of Durie and Scoonie, valued rent L. 2961, 7s. 5d.; Captain James Erskine Wemyss, R. N. proprietor of Aithernie, L. 443, 4s. 10d.; Major Anderson, proprietor of Monthrive, L. 470, 15s. 8d.; James Blythe Fernie, Esq. proprietor of Kilmux and Ovenstone, L. 413, 13s. 4d.; George Simpson, Esq. proprietor of Letham, L. 408, 10s.; David Fleming, Esq. proprietor of Myreside, L. 118, 11s. 4d.; and Mr Wallace, proprietor of Park-hill, L. 25, 6s. The present landed rental is about L. 6500, and the house rental about L. 1600.

*Parochial Registers.*—The oldest volume of records, which has been well kept, contains *the general acts* of the kirk-session from 1626 to 1642, and *the particular acts* from 1640 to 1655. The records commence again in 1667, and are brought down to the present time, with the exception of two blanks, one between the years 1746 and 1764, and the other between 1781 and 1798. This last blank has been accounted for by the sudden death of the session-clerk, who had neglected to transcribe the minutes of session from the note-book into the regular record; and that note-book is now lost.

*Antiquities.*—There are but few vestiges of antiquity in the parish, though there is little doubt of its having been, in early times, the scene of mortal strife, as is testified by the near neighbourhood of the standing stones of Lundin. It is said in the former Statis-



tical Account, that "some stone-coffins were found to the eastward of the river, with human bones, supposed to have been deposited there in the ninth century, when a battle was fought upon these grounds between the Scots and Danes." But a more interesting relic of antiquity was opened up about fifteen years ago, in the corner of a field upon the estate of Aithernie, when digging out moulding-sand for a foundery in the neighbourhood. This was an ancient cairn or tumulus, containing about twenty stone-coffins, and formed upon the apex of a conical hill. The base of this tumulus was about forty yards square, and laid with a coating of clay; and the *cistvaens* or coffins were constructed of rude slabs, placed on edge with a covering stone, and cemented with clay puddle. Above the coffins was a cairn of small stones, about three feet in depth, and over this was spread a composition of clay and sand, so hard that it required the aid of a pick-axe to penetrate it. In two of the coffins, near the end, was placed a small urn made of clay, and rudely ornamented, and about six inches in diameter and the same in depth. These urns contained a blackish substance, which was covered with oak-bark; but the bark immediately mouldered down, upon being exposed to the atmosphere. Five of the coffins contained each a larger urn of similar materials, about 14 inches in diameter, and 24 in depth. These were placed with their mouths inverted upon a square stone, and were filled with calcined bones. In one coffin, smaller than the rest, were found a quantity of beads made of charred wood, and about half an inch in length. All the coffins, except the five which held the larger urns, contained human bones; but a much greater quantity of these relics of mortality were scattered around the cemetery, and were protected only by the dry stones which formed the cairn. The great number of uncoffined bones might warrant the conjecture, that a battle-field was not far distant; but the absence of all instruments or emblems of war, and the presence of a female corpse, which the beads, the usual ornaments of the British women, indicate, would more naturally lead to the belief, that this tumulus formed a peaceable dormitory of our pagan forefathers.\*

*Modern Buildings.*—The modern buildings are, the mansion-house of Durie, built in 1762; that of Kilmux in 1832; and that of Monthrive in 1836; and five spinning-mills, and one flour-mill, all of modern erection. The materials used for building, especial-

\* Some of the urns and beads are still in the possession of Mr Balfour, the tenant upon the farm.

ly in the lower part of the parish, are generally brought by sea, from the quarries of Inverkeithing and Blair.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Scoonie since the commencement of the century, has been progressively and rapidly increasing, owing chiefly to the erection of several manufacturing establishments in the parish and neighbourhood.

The population in 1755 amounted to 1528

1791	-	1675
1801	-	1681
1811	-	1726
1821	-	2042
1831	-	2556

According to this census there were 1224 males, and 1342 females.

Number of persons under 15 years of age	-	-	-	1066
between 15 and 30	-	-	-	545
30 and 50	-	-	-	660
50 and 70	-	-	-	215
above 70	-	-	-	70

The present population is 2640, of whom 2163 reside in Leven and its suburbs, and 473 in the country part of the parish. It is difficult to ascertain with accuracy the average number of births, as few of the dissenters have the names of their children registered; and many belonging to the establishment are equally negligent.

The average of marriages for the last 3 years is	-	-	-	27
deaths,	-	-	-	60
The number of insane, 2; blind, 2; deaf and dumb, 1; and imbecile, 2.				
Number of families in the parish	-	-	-	555
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	85
trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	-	-	-	317

There are three landed proprietors of independent fortune residing in the parish; and three non-resident heritors possessed of land exceeding the yearly value of L. 50.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture.*—

The number of acres occasionally in tillage, about	3250
of uncultivated links,	105
in pasture, but in the progress of being	
cultivated,	250
under wood, planted,	250
	<hr/>
Number of acres in the parish about	3855

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce, raised yearly in the parish, so far as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Grain of all kinds,	-	L. 8500
Hay and pasture,	-	3350
Potatoes and turnips,	-	2200

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 14,050.

*Rent of land.*—The rent of arable land varies from 16s. to L. 4



per imperial acre, and averages about L. 1, 17s. The grazing of a cow averages about L. 4; of an ox L. 3; and of a ewe or full grown sheep, pastured for the year, 12s.

*Rate of Wages, &c.*—A day-labourer receives 1s. 6d. in summer, and 1s. 4d. in winter; a mason, carpenter, or other mechanic, receives from 2s. 2d. to 2s. 6d. in summer, and from 1s. 10d. to 2s. in winter; an unmarried farm-servant receives from L. 10 to L. 11 per annum, with board in the farmer's kitchen; and when he lives in the *bothie*, he has the same wages, with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, and a pint of sweet-milk per day; a married man, who has a cow, receives from L. 6 to L. 7, with a house,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, and 6 bolls of potatoes, or ground to plant potatoes; those who have no cows receive L. 2 or L. 3 additional, with a pint of sweet-milk per day; a woman farm-servant receives from L. 5 to L. 6 with board; and women employed in out-door labour have 8d. per day of nine hours. The rate of mason, carpenter, and other mechanical work is as follows:—rubble building per rood of 36 square yards, from 28s. to 32s.; stone and lime dikes per do. 16s. to 20s.; dry-stone dikes per do. 7s. to 10s.; slating per do. 10s. to 14s.; tiling per do. 5s. to 6s. 6d.; plastering two coats per yard, 2d. The price of different articles, for the purposes of rural economy, which are in use and manufactured in the parish, is, a farm-cart with iron axle, from L. 10, 10s. to L. 11; an iron two-horse plough, L. 3, 5s.; iron swingle-trees, 15s.; a pair of iron harrows, from L. 2, 5s. to L. 2, 8s.; a two-horse self-cleaning iron harrow, L. 5, 5s.; an iron trenching skeleton plough, from L. 5, 10s. to L. 6; an iron strip plough L. 2, 2s.; a drill harrow L. 2, 2s.

*Breed of Cattle and Sheep.*—There are few sheep in the parish, and these are generally bought in the south country markets, about the month of August, either to be fed off on turnips during the winter, or to be kept as a breeding stock, when the lambs are sold in the spring, and the ewes are fattened and disposed of during the summer. The general breed of cattle is the native horned black breed of the county. About twenty years ago, this breed was in great request by the English dealers, to drive to the southern markets, where they met a ready demand, on account of their kindly feeding qualities, and the great weight to which they were raised on the English pastures. At that period, nearly one-half of the cattle bred in the county were taken to England in a lean state. But now, from the general improvement in husbandry, and the introduction of artificial manures, the system is completely

changed. Most of the cattle reared in the county are fattened at home; and are either consumed by our own population, or sent to the Edinburgh or Glasgow markets; and some of late have been sent by the Dundee steam-vessels to London. Where the native breed has been well selected and kept pure, it has been found best adapted for the soil and climate of this county. Unfortunately, however, many crosses with other breeds have been introduced; and almost every one of these crosses has tended rather to deteriorate than to improve the original stock. This appears now to be generally acknowledged, and a desire has arisen among our agriculturists to give up crossing entirely, and to confine their attention to the native breed of the county, as being the most profitable. The celebrated ox of the Fife breed, "Charlie," was bred in this parish, by Mr Wallace, tenant at Balgrummo. He was exhibited by Mr Bruce of Kennet, at the Highland Society exhibition at Stirling in 1833, and gained the premium given by that Society for the best ox of any breed, competing against the Teeswater and other breeds. In this parish, also, were reared by James B. Fernie, Esq. of Kilmux, and exhibited by him at Stirling the same year, the two oxen which gained the premium given by the Highland Society for the best pair of cattle of the Fife breed.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry generally pursued in this parish, is the rotation of alternate white and green crops; and the soil adapted for grass is allowed to remain two or more years in pasture. Since the last Statistical report was published, the annual land rental has increased from L. 2000 to nearly L. 6500; and many an acre, since that period, has been brought from a state of unprofitable barrenness to bear luxuriant crops of all kinds of grain. Notwithstanding the depression under which the agricultural interest has been labouring for several years, improvements upon the soil are still carrying on with considerable spirit; and some of the occupiers of wet land are rendering the soil comparatively dry, by adopting the new mode of draining, called "the frequent drain system," and by using the skeleton trenching plough, invented by Mr Smith of Deanston, and improved by Mr Henry Thallan, blacksmith at Smiddy-green, in this parish. Major Anderson of Monthrive, and Mr Fernie of Kilmux may be named as improvers on this system.

*Leases.*—The duration of leases is generally for a term of nineteen years; and there seems no reason to suppose that any change



in this respect would be favourable to the occupier, except in improving leases, where the capital is all expended by the tenant.

*Farm Buildings.*—Owing to a great portion of the property in this parish being entailed, the farm-steadings are not generally so commodious as they would require to be, in order to keep pace with the modern system of husbandry; but still, they are in a gradual state of improvement. The best steading in the parish was built in 1833 by Mr Fernie on his property of Kilmux, and cost nearly L. 2000. Attached to it is a steam-engine, which propels a thrashing machine, and also two pairs of stones for grinding oats.

The chief obstacle to farther improvement arises from the difficulty of procuring stones for the purposes of building and draining, there being no quarries of any consequence, except in the northern part of the parish, and these chiefly of whinstone.

*Manufactures.*—The following table gives a view of the several branches of manufacture, which are at present in operation in this parish, with the number of individuals employed, and the requisite capital.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Capital.</i>
Five mills for spinning flax and tow, -	98	156	L. 15,000
One foundry for cast iron, -	45	-	4,000
One saw mill and wood-yard, -	30	-	3,000
One mill for bruising bones, -	12	-	1,500
One brick and tile work, -	12	-	500
One ochre mill, -	3	-	500
Hand-loom weaving, -	148	22	
	<hr/> 398	<hr/> 178	<hr/> L. 24,500

In the spinning-mills, both adults and children are employed six days in the week, and work the legal number of hours, as fixed by the factory bill, namely, twelve hours for five days, and nine hours on Saturday, making sixty-nine hours per week. Males receive from 14s. to L. 1, 2s. per week; females from 5s. to 7s.; and children from 2s. 6d. to 5s.

These mills are fitted up upon the most improved construction; and their machinery is adapted for spinning all kinds and sizes of flax and tow yarns.

The hand-loom weavers work by the piece, and at their own homes; consequently, their earnings depend entirely upon their own skill and industry; but may average 12s. per week for males, and from 8s. to 10s. for females. In the foundry, wages run from 12s. to 24s. per week, and, in the other works, are nearly the same as those of agricultural labourers. They generally work ten hours a day. Wages for all kinds of manufacture afford at present a fair

remuneration and support to those who are engaged in them; and all who are of sober and industrious habits are well able to live comfortably, and to bring up and educate their families in a decent and respectable manner. It has, however, been generally remarked, that those who receive the highest wages are commonly the most idle and dissipated, often neglecting both the maintenance and the education of their families.

*Navigation.*—Belonging to the part of Leven are two brigs carrying 374 tons, which are chiefly employed in the American trade, and five sloops of 188 tons, engaged as coasters. In 1835, 15 vessels from foreign parts, and 222 coasters, entered the harbour with cargoes. The imports and exports for the same year are shewn in the following table.

<i>Imports.</i>		<i>Exports.</i>	
Ashes, 556 barrels,	- L. 4170	Bone-dust, 500 tons	- L. 3000
Bones, 232 tons,	- 951	Bricks and tiles,	- 80
Wheat, 205 quarters	- 410	Linen cloth, 900 bales,	- 18000
Barley, 995 ditto,	- 1244	Cast-iron, 215 tons,	- 2580
Malt, 266 ditto,	- 638	Pig-iron, 30 ditto,	- 180
Coals, 577 tons	- 230	Ochre, 191 ditto,	- 573
Flax, 357 ditto	- 17850	Oats, 60 quarters,	- 60
Hemp, 361 ditto,	- 7942	Potatoes, 2084 bolls,	- 730
Herrings, 272 barrels,	- 272	Whisky, 376 puncheons,	- 15040
Pig iron, 440 tons	- 2200	Yarn, 440 tons,	- 20240
Rape cake, 40 ditto,	- 220		
Stones, 1322 ditto,	- 220		
Slates, 105 ditto.	- 330		
Timber,	- 6513		
Total, L. 43190		Total, L. 60483	

The harbour at Leven is entirely a natural one, and is formed by a creek at the mouth of the river. At spring-tides, it admits vessels of about 300 tons burden, but it is rather difficult of access, owing to the banks of sand, which are frequently shifting by heavy sea storms, or floods in the river. There is a small quay, lately built, where the ships are unloaded; but it is altogether insufficient for the increasing trade of the port.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—The only town in the parish is Leven, with a population of above 2000. It lies on the sea shore, at the mouth of the river of the same name, and consists of two principal streets running parallel to each other, with a variety of bye-lanes. Weaving of linen is the staple trade of the place, and affords steady employment to the inhabitants. A board of police, according to the Act of Parliament, has been established here for some years, and its labours are chiefly directed to the cleaning and lighting of the



streets, and supplying the town with water. The market-towns of Cupar and Kirkaldy are each nearly ten miles distant from Leven.

*Means of Communication.*—The post-office is at Leven, where there are two arrivals every day. The turnpike road, which is well kept, crosses the parish about a quarter of a mile above the town: and a stage-coach passes from the east of Fife to Edinburgh three times a week. There is also a communication with Edinburgh by a steam-boat, twice a-day in summer, and once in winter. The want of a carriage bridge over the river at the town of Leven has been much felt, there being none nearer than Cameron Bridge, about three miles up the river. This much desired improvement, however, is at present in contemplation, and it is hoped will soon be carried into execution. Near the mouth of the river, which was formerly crossed by a ferry-boat, there has been erected a handsome suspension-bridge, for foot-passengers, by means of which the village of Dubbyside is now, in a manner connected with the town of Leven. This improvement cost nearly L. 500, which was raised in shares of 10s. 6d. each. A half-penny is charged for each passenger; and the pontage is at present let at L. 85 per annum.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The old church of Scoonie stood in the centre of the burying ground, about a quarter of a mile from the town of Leven; and what remains of it forms the family vault of the proprietor of Durie. When the present edifice was built, about sixty years ago, the site was removed to the vicinity of Leven, where the great bulk of the population reside; and is about four miles distant from the most remote part of the parish. It was seated for about 700 hearers; but, owing to the rapid increase of the population, the want of church accommodation began to be seriously felt, when, in 1822, the heritors in the most liberal manner, proceeded to its enlargement. It now contains 1000 sittings, of which 100 are set apart for the poor. The interior of the building was completely renewed, and there are few country churches so comfortable, either for preacher or hearers.

The manse was enlarged and repaired in 1820, and is now a commodious and comfortable dwelling. The glebe, arable and grass together, is about 12 acres, and is let at L. 50 per annum. The stipend was augmented in 1830, and is 17 chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, the average price of which for the

last three years is L. 226, 9s. 8d. with L. 10 for communion elements.\*

There is one Independent and one Relief chapel in the parish, the ministers of which are paid by the seat rents and the Sabbath collections. Divine service in the Established Church is regularly and fully attended; but the writer has no means of knowing the state of the dissenting chapels. Number of families belonging to the Established Church, 384, or 1751 individuals; communicants, 738: number of families of dissenters of all denominations, 156, or individuals, 827; communicants, 410. There are 2 Episcopalians, and 62 who attend no stated place of worship.

A society for general religious purposes, under the direction of the ladies of the parish, has been in existence for several years, and the average annual amount of its contributions for the last three years is L. 20. There is also a ladies' charitable society, whose expenditure for the last three years has averaged L. 24 per annum. The church collections for religious and charitable objects, independent of the regular collections, have, for the last three years, averaged L. 8, 7s. 2d. per annum.

*Education.*—Besides the parish school, there are three unendowed schools, where, in addition to the usual branches, are taught Greek, Latin, French, and mathematics. There is also a Female school, where the more ornamental branches of education may be acquired. The emoluments of the parochial schoolmaster are: salary L. 34, with L. 2 for deficiency of garden ground; school fees about L. 70; and from other sources, as session and heritors' clerk, L. 20. He has also a very superior dwelling-house. The other teachers are supported entirely by their school fees. The average number of scholars attending the different schools is about 380, which shows that the inhabitants are sufficiently alive to the benefits of education; but, though these benefits are within the reach of all, yet no adequate change for the better has been produced on the conduct and morals of the people.

There have been three illegitimate births in the parish during the last three years.

I am not aware of any individual above six years of age being altogether unable to read, except two, and they are imbeciles.

*Literature.*—A subscription library, consisting at present of about 650 volumes, has been in operation in this parish for many years;

\* It may be worthy to remark, that the present incumbent is only the third Presbyterian minister since the Revolution, the Episcopalian clergyman having been allowed to retain the benefice till his death, which happened about 1717.



and a juvenile collection, chiefly of religious publications, is connected with the Sabbath school. There is also a mechanics' institution, with a respectable library belonging to it.

*Friendly Societies.*—There have been several Friendly Societies in this parish; but these institutions, though excellent as a means of promoting a spirit of independence, frugality, and forethought among the people, have been subject to great insecurity and instability from various causes, but chiefly from errors in calculation on their first establishment, so that few of the old ones now remain. A Weaver's Society flourished here for nearly fifty years, and was long in a prosperous state; but, owing to a greater number of widows, than they had calculated upon, coming upon their roll, their funds were latterly reduced to L. 120, which, about two years ago, was divided among its members, and the society was broken up. There are at present in Leven, the Gardeners' Society, with 130 members; the Apron Society, with 160; and the Society of Odd Fellows, with 50; and as all these have taken advantage of the Friendly Society Act, passed in 1829, it is to be hoped that, by judicious management, they will be more permanent, and productive of the important benefits which they contemplate. A savings' bank was instituted here in 1816; but it received so little encouragement from those for whose benefit it was intended, that it was soon after discontinued. A Government Annuity Society has been for some time in contemplation. The preliminaries are now finally arranged, and it is hoped that it will be in operation in a few weeks.

*Poor's Funds.*—The average number of paupers upon the regular roll for the last three years is 15; but none are placed there unless those who, from age and infirmity, appear altogether incapacitated from ever earning a maintenance for themselves. A much greater number of poor receive occasional assistance during a temporary illness, or in winter, when there is no out-door work. This is given at the discretion of the minister, or elder of the district, which has the effect of stimulating their own exertions, and tends in some measure to keep alive a spirit of independence which, I fear, is fast fading from our population.

The average annual disbursements made by the kirk-session for the last three years amounted to L. 219, 14s. 1d.; to regular and occasional paupers, L. 161, 15s. 5d.; to pauper lunatics, L. 42, 19s. 4d.; and to sessional expenses, L. 14, 19s. 4d. Of this sum the church door collections amounted to L. 62, 17s. 7d., and sun-

dries to L. 8, 4s. 6d. The remainder was contributed by the heritors according to their valued rents.

*Prisons.*—Though much wanted, there is no prison in this parish, nor even a lock-up-house.

*Fairs.*—In former times, there were one fair in spring for lintseed, and one every month, from May to October, for white linen. Merchants attended from distant parts of the country, and linen cloth to a very considerable amount was annually brought here for sale. These fairs, however, have now dwindled into petty markets for toys and sweetmeats; and, as they are often made an occasion, by many of the working-classes, for dissipation and disturbance, they may well be dispensed with.

*Inns, &c.*—There are 28 licensed houses for retailing spirits in the town of Leven,—a number far beyond the wants of the place, and which has no doubt tended much to demoralize the people.

*Fuel.*—The common fuel is coal, from the pits of Wemyss and Kilmux. A considerable quantity of English coals is annually imported, and is generally used by the wealthier classes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

With respect to the more striking variations betwixt the present state of the parish, and that which existed at the time of the last Statistical Account, I may generally refer to what has been already stated under the different heads of inquiry; and would advert merely to the improved state of agriculture, by which the rental of the parish has been more than trebled; the excellent state of the turnpike and statute-labour roads; and the great increase in trade and manufactures. It may be proper, however, to mention also an improvement in the mode of conducting funerals, which has tended much to the comfort and convenience of the working classes. When the present incumbent came to the parish, it was customary to have at least three *services*, but often more,—one of spirits with bread and cheese, and two of wine with cake and biscuit. This not only occasioned much delay, but entailed a heavy expense upon poor families, which, at such a season especially, they were little able to bear. Now the *services* are altogether discontinued; the procession commences precisely at the hour appointed; and it may be recorded to the credit of the community, that, generally, they entered most readily into the new arrangement.

*December 1836.*



## PARISH OF ELIE.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE MILLIGAN, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—ETYMOLOGY is always an uncertain subject. In regard particularly to the names of places, which have existed for generations, it is often impossible to discover the causes which led to their being imposed, or, what is more likely, the accident in which they had their origin. That of “Elie” is involved in the general obscurity. The writer of the former Statistical Account has, according to the fashion which seems to have prevailed in his days, as well as now, had recourse to Gaelic, the mother, as it should seem, of languages, and tells us, that the parish received its name from “*A Liche*,” signifying “out of the sea or out of the water.” Being ignorant of Celtic, we are unable to decide how far the derivation is correct. We are disposed, however, to doubt its soundness. For the village is not further out of the sea than any other part of the coast. Nay, if we may so speak, it extends farther into it—the Frith of Forth being narrower here than in any other quarter below Burntisland. We should rather be inclined to consider “Elie” as having sprung from the Greek word “*ελος*” a marsh. And this is the more likely to be true, as the appellation of “Ely” in England seems to have had a similar origin, and to have been given to the isle of that name, situated at a considerable distance from the sea, in consequence of the marshy nature of the surrounding country. It may be alleged that the Scottish Elie is not a marshy district; but that, on the contrary, the soil is dry and sandy. The argument, however, is no irrefragable answer to our conjecture. For one part of the parish is bounded by the loch of Kilconquhar, where there is a considerable portion of marshy ground; and besides, the land must have been wet before the improved system of agriculture by draining, &c. was introduced. As a proof of this, we find that agues were at one time very common. But of late they have entirely disappeared—the last

case which lives in tradition having occurred upwards of twenty years ago; and even yet, by digging, water is found everywhere near the surface.

*Boundaries.*--The parish is bounded by Newburn and Kilconquhar, on the west; by Kilconquhar on the north; by St Monance on the east; and by the sea on the south. In length it extends about two miles, and the breadth is nearly one. It is, however, much intersected by the neighbouring parish—two farms at the distance of two miles, and one at that of three, being cut off from the principal divisions by portions of Kilconquhar. The cause of this seems to have been, that the whole of Elie originally belonged to Kilconquhar, and that, when the disjunction took place about the year 1639, Sir William Scott of Ardross had the whole of his own lands, without regard to their local situation, erected into the new parish. In this way, the farm of Burntsheils, at the distance of eight or nine miles, was originally intended to form part of it. But the absurdity of such a proposal probably caused it to be relinquished: for the lands in question have always continued attached to Kilconquhar. In those days of reform, might not a new division of parishes be conveniently adopted. There are no doubt difficulties in the way of such an arrangement, but if necessary changes could be accomplished, it would add much, in many places, to the spiritual interests of the kingdom.\*

*Topographical Appearances.*—There are no hills, and scarcely what can be called a rising ground in the parish. The land is generally flat, and along the coast, which extends nearly two miles, there is a considerable portion of what is called “links,”—the soil being a bed of sand, and producing nothing that is useful. During the time of the late war, rabbits were encouraged to burrow there, and, the price of skins being high, considerable sums of money were made by the sale of them. Some still remain; but, as there is no longer the same temptation to breed, the policy of the farmers is now turned to rooting them out, in order to prevent the injury which they do to the crops. The shore is sandy

\* Since writing the above, we have met with a hint of the same kind, in the report to last Assembly of the Statistical Sub-Committee of the Church Extension Committee. “To effect a remedy for these disadvantages, must of necessity require a lapse of time; but the Sub-Committee deem it of importance, that Presbyteries should avail themselves of such occasions, as may, from time to time, offer, by the rebuilding of a church, to endeavour to obtain a more favourable situation for it, and should also consider how far, by promoting judicious disjunctions and annexations, *quoad sacra*, of detached and distant portions of parishes, they might not in many cases render the existing means of religious instruction available to a much greater extent than at present.”



and gradually shelving. There is, perhaps, no place on the coast of Fife better adapted for sea-bathing. Accordingly, in the summer and autumn months, it is much resorted to for that purpose; and in consequence of the great facilities opened up by steam communication, the probability is, that the numbers will be considerably increased. The village, undoubtedly, is one of the cleanest and most healthy anywhere to be met with; and although, in a popular Gazetteer, it is said to be excessively dull, it is not more so than other places of the same size. There is not, indeed, so much trade to enliven it, as it once enjoyed, or as, under more favourable circumstances, it might still command. But it is a very desirable retirement, and will not be found deficient in society by such as do not depend altogether upon others for their happiness.

*Hydrography.*—The parish cannot boast of any rivers. On the north, the boundary is partly formed by a beautiful lake, called Kilconquhar Loch, which is said to abound in pikes and eels. We are not aware, however, that many of them are taken. A small stream that issues from it, runs into our harbour, which might perhaps be profitably employed for driving machinery. Indeed, it is reported that a gentleman, engaged in the linen trade, lately wished to erect a flax mill on it; but that the trustees on the estate of Elie gave the idea no encouragement; and although work might thus have been furnished to a few labourers, there is little reason to regret, in so far as the morals of the people are concerned, that the proposal did not succeed.

*Harbour.*—The harbour here is excellent. By those who are acquainted with sea affairs, it is universally acknowledged to be the best in the Frith, and the only one where, in certain winds which blow with great violence, it is possible to find a shelter. Should vessels happen to miss it, there is no other port which they can take; and the consequence is, that many instances are on record of their having been driven to the coast of Norway. By the easy access to it, and its conveniency and safety when taken, it has often been the means of preserving much valuable property, together with the lives of many hardy seamen; and we find from a representation given in to the Privy Council of Scotland in 1696, that three hundred of his Majesty's soldiers would have perished, had it not been for the protection which it afforded. The representation alluded to is contained in a petition laid before the privy-council by William Reid, bailie of Elie, and James and Ro-

bert Nairns, skippers there, praying for assistance to repair the harbour, which was then in a ruinous condition.\*

How much money was collected throughout Scotland for the purpose stated, we have no means to ascertain. But as we hear of no more complaints, the probability is, that it was sufficient to accomplish the object. In the former Statistical Account, it is stated that this useful harbour was going fast to ruin. Since then, something has been done to hasten its decay, and nothing for its repair or improvement. It is now in a very dilapidated state; from being once so accessible, it cannot, without danger, be now approached by those who are not fully acquainted with it; and even when it is entered the anchorage is not good. The family of Anstruther is the proprietor.† For the last thirty or forty years,

\* As the paper is rather curious we give it entire.—“ Act for repairing the Harbour of the Elie. At Edinburgh, the tenth day of April, one thousand six hundred ninety and six, anent an petition given in to the Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council by William Reid, present bailie of Elie, and James and Robert Nairns, skippers there, in their own name and in name of the whole inhabitants of the said town, showing, that the ruinous condition of the harbour of the Elies is witnessed by a testificat under the hands of several skippers of the burghs of Pittenweem, Anstruther Easter, and Earlsferry, produced with the said petition, and the same will be abundantly testified by many of the merchants of Edinburgh, if any doubt remain with their Lordships, anent the verity of the representation. It is very well known to their Lordships, and to the most part of the kingdom, that the harbour of the Elie is the greatest refuge, and was the securest in storms, when ships are put from their anchors in Leith Road and other places of the Forth, and had no other places to go to but that harbour, and if speedy course be not taken to repair the same, the trade and shipping of the kingdom will be exceedingly prejudged, and the petitioners are no ways in a condition, by their own proper means, to repair the same, so that the harbour must utterly perish unless their Lordships afford their wonted assistance, by granting a contribution through all the kingdom, seeing the ships and trade of the whole kingdom have benefit by it, and a necessity of it, the merchants in the western towns and shires, having their trade at Borrowstounness and Queensferry, and other places of the Firth; it is noutour that three hundred of his Majesty's soldiers had been lost, had it not been the conveniency and safety of that harbour: And therefore humbly craving to the effect underwritten, as the said petition bears. The said Lords of his Majesty's Privy Council having considered this petition given into them by the above William Reid and others, with the testificat mentioned therein, and produced therewith, and the estimation of the reparation of the harbour of the Elie, they do hereby allow a voluntar contribution to be made at all the paroch churches within this kingdom, for reparation of the said harbour of the Elie, and that upon such days as the petitioners shall think fit; and nominats and appoints the said William Reid, and Thomas Cook, skipper in the Elie, to be collectors for uplifting, ingathering, and collecting of the said contribution, in respect they have given bond, and found sufficient caution, acted in the books of Privy Council, that they shall employ the contributions to be collected by them as said is, upon the reparation of the said harbour, and that they shall make payment of the surplus, (if any shall be,) to such persons as their Lordships shall appoint: And appoints the Ministers of the several paroches, to cause intimate thir presents at their paroch churches upon the Lord's day, after the forenoon's sermon, immediately preceding the day upon which the said collection is to be made. And allows thir presents to be printed. Extracted by me, GILB. ELIOT, *Cl. Sti. Concilii*.”—“ Edinburgh: Printed by the Heirs and Successors of Andrew Anderson, Printer to His Most Excellent Majesty, 1696.” *Reprinted in the Fifeshire Journal Office, Cupar-Fife, 6th June 1836.*

† There was once a village named Buchlyvie in the neighbourhood of the man-



however, the estate has been generally under trustees, either from minorities or from involment, so that it has not been possible to do any thing for the benefit of the harbour, nor is there any prospect from that quarter for many years to come. Aware of this, some of the neighbouring gentlemen and farmers, interested in the prosperity of the county, and the success of agriculture, held a meeting at Elie in the month of May last, Mr Keith Douglas of Denino in the chair, where resolutions were unanimously adopted, expressive of the importance of the place, both for the purposes of trade, and as a harbour of refuge ; and it was agreed to request Mr Stevenson, civil-engineeer, to survey it,—reporting as to the means by which it might be best improved, and the expense that might be required ; it being understood that if his report should prove favourable, immediate steps should be taken to carry the projected improvements into effect. Mr Stevenson has now given in his report, fully confirming the practicability of the undertaking at no very startling sum, betwixt L. 4000 and L. 5000. The report has been approved of ; and the committee is now in the course of correspondence with Sir Windham Anstruther, and his trustees, for the purpose of obtaining their sanction ; and should their attempt be successful, it is probable that the works would be immediately carried into effect, there being little doubt that the requisite sum might be easily raised, by the sale of shares. As the harbour, however, from being a place of refuge, would benefit not only the coast of Fife, but the kingdom at large, it should seem only fair that Government should assist in forwarding the undertaking.

*Meteorology and Climate.*—Elie, although lying so much to the east, is pretty well sheltered from the east winds. In spring, indeed, the easterly breeze, especially when accompanied with rain, may be unpleasant enough. But it seldom continues long ; and we have remarked ourselves—the same observation having been made to us by strangers—that in summer it is rather agreeable ; for in very hot weather, a sea-breeze from the east generally springs up towards the afternoon, and helps to moderate the temperature. During winter the cold is not excessive ; and from the vicinity of the sea, frost and snow are seldom of long duration.

sion-house. One of the Ladies Anstruther ordered it to be removed ; and it is said, that, on leaving the place, one of the old inhabitants, a female, who passed among her neighbours for being wiser than she ought, predicted that the family should not flourish again for seven generations. The prophecy is still devoutly believed by a number of people ; and the fact has added strength to their faith,—the sixth prior, within the memory of middle aged men, being now in possession, and some disaster having occurred in the history of them all.

The village and parish are commonly very healthy. From the breadth of the streets, and the purifying breezes, epidemics find difficulty in spreading. During the period of the cholera, three cases occurred at different times; and, although in one or two of them it showed itself in circumstances very favourable to propagation, it never extended beyond the person originally seized. Last winter, scarlet fever prevailed much to the eastward, and was very fatal. It did not reach us till May, and then it was confined chiefly to children—not above two grown up persons having been seized—and was on the whole mild. It still, however, continues, having made a slow creeping progress through the different parts of the village, and, as the season advances, has become rather more fatal. About ten children have died of it, or rather of a dropsical affection, by which the fever has been very generally succeeded. There are no rain-gages in the parish; and we are not aware that any individual is in the habit of making regular observations with the thermometer or barometer.

*Geology.*—Lying intermediate betwixt the Earlsferry coal-field on the west, and that of St Monance on the east, this parish may be considered as a section of the great independent coal formation. This useful mineral, however, is wrought in no part of it, although at a former period several pits were open; and little doubt can be entertained, from its geognostic relations, that it is not less highly favoured than its neighbours in this respect.

Sauchur Point forms a bold projecting headland of rock, consisting of several varieties of trap, viz. greenstone, basalt, clinkstone, and trap-tuffa, on the west side of which, in a well-protected bay, the harbour is situated. From this, the stratified rocks, consisting of sandstone, limestone, shale, and clay-ironstone, dip in opposite directions. The limestone lies upon the beach, within the bay, but of which little more than the out-crop can be observed. The same deposit occurs again, a little to the east of Newark Castle, in a bed about three feet thick, of a bluish colour, and confusedly mixed up with the disturbed strata of that district. The quality is not considered to be good, and accordingly it is not employed at either places for any purposes of husbandry, or of mason-work. Along the shore, from Sauchur Point, eastward to the extremity of the parish, all the members of the coal-field are to be met with, some of them inclined at an angle of  $12^{\circ}$ , others at  $30^{\circ}$ , and in some instances, they are thrown into a vertical position. The tuffa is a compound of all the adjacent deposits,—coal, sand-



stone, limestone, basalt, and clinkstone, mixed together, which, with innumerable small veins of calcareous spar interlaced and weaved in every direction, give to the whole a variegated and interesting appearance. The imbedded portions of this compound mass are not generally water-worn, but for the most part sharp and angular pieces, varying from less than an inch to more than a foot in diameter. The coal measures are traversed by several trap-dikes, by which they are not only up-heaved, but greatly altered in texture at the line of junction. One of these consists of basalt, which having opposed a hard front to the beating of the surf, may be observed elevated considerably above the surrounding strata. It appears as a long narrow ridge, about two feet thick, projecting into the sea, and distinguished easily at a distance by its deep black colour; it is very compact, and contains crystals of augite. Upon the whole, the line of section here bears the most striking marks of great internal disturbance—of violent injection among the strata of melted subterranean matter—and of the existence of agencies which have long ceased to act in this quarter of the globe. Such as delight in the speculative department of the interesting science of geology, will find on this coast ample materials on which to exercise their ingenuity, nor will it be any surprise to those who view nature on the great scale to find, on the opposite side of the peninsula of Fife to the eastward of St Andrews, precisely the same class of phenomena in relation to the same class of rocks, as have been noticed above.

The shale beds contain impressions of various arundinaceous plants, but few or none of the Filices, so beautifully developed on the corresponding deposit at Wemyss and Dysart. Stems and branches of trees are to be found in abundance in the sandstone. At Sauchur Point, a beautiful gem is met with, which forms an object of great attraction to the sea-bathers who resort here in summer. It is of a deep reddish colour, and varies from the size of a small grain to that of a garden pea. It is usually denominated “the Elie Ruby,” being confined to this parish, and, indeed, to the narrow headland of Sauchur point; but, mineralogically considered, it belongs, we believe, to the garnet family of gems, and of these ranks among the *precious* class. It is allied to the carbuncle of the ancients, and by modern mineralogists is termed *Almandine*. Its component parts are silex, alumine, and oxide of iron. It does not appear, so far as can be detected, to be an ingredient of any of the rocks in the neighbourhood, at least such as

are visible above the surface of the sea. It is usually washed up after high winds, and is found among the gravel on the beach.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Persons.*—This is a production in which the parish does not appear to be very prolific.

*Family of Anstruther.*—One of the family of Anstruther was raised to the dignity of a Lord of Session in the reign of Queen Anne. The first baronet of the race, Sir William Anstruther, was also member for the county of Fife in Parliament, during the administration of the Duke of York, 1681; and joined in opposition to the court measures of that period. It appears that he also represented this county from 1682 to 1709, and that he took an active part in the proceedings—those more particularly for securing and establishing the Protestant religion, and the government, laws, and liberties of the kingdom. In the reign of Queen Anne he was in high favour. Report says, that she offered him either a captaincy of Dragoons, or the gown of a judge in the Court of Session,\* and that he preferred the latter—being less laborious, and better paid. If we may trust, however, to some lines that are in the mouth of the people, his legal knowledge was not held in very high estimation.

But, besides this office, he received more substantial proofs of the Queen's favour, having got a charter of the baronies of Anstruther and Ardross, with many other lands, and also the heritable bailerie of the lordship and regality of Pittenweem, with the offices of Searcher, and giving cockets for the ports of Anstruther and Elie. The same charter constitutes him heritably one of the *cibo cidæ*, or carvers,—an office which his descendant, the present Baronet, continues to hold. We find that he also aspired to literary fame, having written a volume entitled “Essays Moral and Divine.” It was published at Edinburgh, 1701, in 4to. There is reason, however, to doubt whether it was calculated to do him much honour, as his friends did all in their power to dissuade him from publishing it; and after his death, his son bought up every copy that could be found, for the purpose of suppressing the work.

A descendant of his, Sir John Anstruther, wrote a work on drill

\* There seems to be little similarity betwixt the two offices. But yet the rumour may not be without a sprinkling of truth, as he appears to have entered public life as a soldier. He had a command in the royal army when it marched into England, and was taken prisoner at the battle of Worcester, and a fine of 1000 merks imposed upon him by Cromwell, and his estate sequestrated; which act of sequestration was only taken off at the Restoration.



husbandry. It is understood to have been useful at the time that it was published, and not without merit; although, from the improvements that have since taken place in agriculture, it is not now in much request. It continues to be remembered chiefly from a *bon mot* connected with it. On its appearance, one of Sir John's friends jocularly remarked, that no one could be better qualified to write on the subject, as there was not a better drilled husband in the whole of Fife. Lady Anstruther, who was a very superior woman, seems to have had a considerable influence with her lord. Another Sir John Anstruther, father of the present proprietor, was, for many years, one of the Judges in the Supreme Court at Calcutta. The probability, therefore, is that he was a man of some eminence, though it is not known that he has left any thing behind him as a proof of his talents.

*Land-owners.*—There are only three proprietors. Of these Sir Windham C. Anstruther is the principal. About 7–9ths of the parish belong to him. The other heritors are, John Anstruther Thomson of Charleton, and William Fortune of Muircambus. The latter has rather the larger valuation, and the former, although assessed for all other parochial burdens, pays no stipend to the minister. - All of them have much above L. 50 of yearly revenue.

*Parochial Registers.*—What can be said perhaps of very few other parishes in Scotland, registers have been regularly kept in Elie since 1639, the date of its erection into a parish. There is, however, one small chasm in them, the volume which began with 1682, and ended at 1700, having been lost. They still continue to be kept with great regularity. On his succeeding to the cure, the present incumbent found occasionally an indisposition to register the births of children, arising probably from the fees paid on the occasion. But he laid it down as a rule not to baptise, till a certificate of registration from the session-clerk was produced; and now this is so well understood that almost no one thinks of speaking to him on the subject, till this preliminary point has been settled. If any are too poor to bear the expense, the session-clerk either gives his labour gratis, or is remunerated by the session. At the same time, as during the last five years, perhaps for many before that, only one child of a dissenter has been born and baptized in the parish, and its name is also inserted in the book, the lists are as nearly complete as can be supposed. The minutes of session also exist for the same period, and with the same exceptions. During the early period, they bear evidence of an inquisition into the manners of the

people which, it may be doubted, whether it ever was for edification. The spirit at least of our days would not bear it; and comparing the state of morality then, with that which exists now, we do not seem to be far behind what is commonly considered the high and palmy days of the church.

*Antiquities.*—There are no antiquities in the parish, nor yet any modern buildings worthy of notice. Elie House might easily be rendered an elegant mansion, and the grounds about it seem to have been laid out with considerable taste. But as the proprietor never resides there, and as there are no funds to keep them in proper order, both are fast going to decay.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1811,	-	883
1821,	-	990
1830,	-	1073
Number of families in the parish about	-	250
chiefly employed in agriculture,	-	30
in trade, &c.	-	110
in other ways,	-	110
Average number of births for last 4 years,	-	25½
of marriages,	-	8
of deaths, according to an account kept by the grave-digger,	-	16
By which number, if we should divide the gross amount of the population, it will give the length of a generation sixty-five years. This speaks much for the healthiness of the place.		
Number of unmarried men (bachelors) above 45,	-	4
of unmarried women above,	-	45
Widows and widowers are not included.		
About fifty years ago, when the population was only 620, the average		
number of births was,	-	22½
of deaths,	-	17½
of marriages,	-	7½
Much about the same that it is now when there is an increase of about 400 in the population. I cannot attempt to say how this fact is to be explained.		

Within the last three years there has been one illegitimate birth. For two years and upwards there have been none.

*Character and Manners of the people.*—The inhabitants are in general industrious and sober, regular in their observance of the ordinances of religion, and there are few places where the Sabbath is more becomingly and devoutly observed. It is no doubt true, that here, as in other parts of the country, some are neither so strict in their attendance in public worship, nor so correct in their habits as might be wished; and what appears strange is, that the exceptions to the prevailing decorum are chiefly to be found among the female part of the population. The number, however, is small; and while the old are dying out, we are not aware that any of the young are addicting themselves to the same disorderly practices. It has often been remarked by strangers that on Sundays the church, from the cleanliness of the people, and in many in-



stances the handsomeness of their dresses, presents much of the appearance of a city congregation.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—In the parish there are 1570 impérial acres. Of these, about 56 have never been cultivated, and are, indeed, incapable of improvement: 50 acres more are under wood, consisting chiefly of beech and Scotch fir. There will of course remain 1464, which are fit for the plough, and in a state of cultivation. It is scarcely possible to ascertain the annual rental of the whole; for a considerable part of it being estimated in grain, varies according to the fiar prices of the county. The rent, however, may be stated at from L. 1 to L. 4 per acre, according to quality—the average of that which is cultivated being nearly L. 1, 15s., so that the whole rental, as nearly as can be calculated, may be about L. 2562.

*Produce.*—The price of grain raised yearly may be much as follows:—

Wheat, barley, oats, and beans,	-	L. 2500
Potatoes and turnips,	-	1700
Hay,	-	600
Pasture,	-	400
		<hr/>
		L. 5200

So that the proportion of the rental to the produce seems to be greater in this parish than in most others that have yet been mentioned in the Statistical Account. Indeed, the rent is considered by the best judges to be too high; and this again arises from the principal proprietor being non-resident, and the management being in the hands of those whose only object is to lay their hands on all the money they can get. Grazing of an ox or cow, L. 3.

Of the farm-buildings the generality are good, and there is no part of the county where the farmers themselves are more skilful than in the surrounding district. The fences, which are chiefly hedge and ditch, are in very bad order. Very little of the land is capable of being properly enclosed, or a greater portion of it would be in pasture. Leases run from seven to nineteen years. Any thing less than nineteen is considered to be a great bar to improvement, and to be equally unfavourable to landlord and tenant. Yet the leases of the chief estate are only for seven,—an arrangement for which I never heard any good reason attempted to be given. Notwithstanding, however, of all these disadvantages, and the distressed state of agriculture for some years past, the farmers all seem to be in very comfortable circumstances.

*Wages.*—Wages of ploughmen may be stated at an average of L. 10

per annum, when they are unmarried and boarded in their master's house. If they are married, the money may be much the same; and a house, with an allowance of meal, potatoes, &c. is given in place of board. The yearly wages of a woman-servant may vary from L. 5 to L. 6. This year, they are on the increase—the flourishing state of trade having withdrawn many hands from field labours, and thus limited the supply.

*Fisheries.*—Eastward at St Monance, Pittenweem, and Cellardyke, sea-fishing is carried on to a great extent—the Edinburgh and Cupar markets, with many others, deriving their principal supply of haddock, cod, turbot, &c. from that quarter. In Elie, there are few fishermen,—scarcely more than are necessary to provide for the consumption of the village. But we have generally a sufficient supply of fish, excellent in quality, and in the best state, which forms for the poor especially, a cheap and healthy article of food.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Elie is a burgh of barony. No market, however, is held in it, although, if the projected improvements on the harbour should take place, the probability is, that one both for grain and cattle would be immediately established: nor would any place be more central for a large district of country. The nearest market-town is Colinsburgh, at the distance of two miles and a-half; Cupar, the county town, is fifteen miles from us; St Andrews, the seat of a university, thirteen; and Anstruther five.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a post-office in the village. It is a sub-office to that at Colinsburgh. The post arrives at eight every morning, and departs betwixt six and seven in the evening. Much might be done for equalizing the rates of postage—great anomalies existing in that respect. A turnpike road runs through the whole extent of the parish. Toll-bars in abundance. If I go to Pittenweem, a distance of four miles, I have two to pay. If I travel in the opposite direction to Kirkaldy, I have three; whereas the neighbouring parish to the east, though at a greater distance, has only two. There is a coach that passes and repasses daily in connection with the steam-boat betwixt Largo and Newhaven. But the great channel of communication is the sea. We have two regular packets that sail weekly to Leith—exporting the produce of the land, and importing those articles of merchandize which are required for the consumption of the neighbourhood. Steam, however, is the chief agent, and nothing has done more for opening up the coast of Fife than the application of it to sailing vessels. Besides the boat already mentioned, which



in summer sails twice a day from the Chain Pier at Trinity to Largo, the Aberdeen and Dundee steam-vessels daily visit us twice, and occasionally three times, both going and returning. And were the harbour repaired, it is supposed that a direct steam communication would be established betwixt this place and London.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is most conveniently situated, being built in the middle of the village where the great body of the people—nearly 1000—reside. Of the remaining fifty or sixty, none are above two miles distant, and the roads are good in all directions. The writer does not know when it was originally built,\* probably when the parish was first erected—but it underwent a complete repair in 1831, and is now surpassed by none in the neighbourhood. Although simple, it has an air of elegance which strikes the stranger; and it could scarcely have been made more comfortable either for the speaker or the hearer. Being seated for nearly 600, it can easily accommodate more than the half of the gross population. The consequence is, that, there being room enough, the people, with very few exceptions, are attached to the Establishment. Perhaps it would have been as well, in repairing the church, to have added to its size; for although there is sufficient accommodation at present, no allowance is made for any increase of numbers. As the seats are divided among the heritors, they have allotted part of them to their tenants and families, and the rest are let to the inhabitants of the village. The rent may be considered as merely nominal—1s. yearly for each sitting—and the sum thus raised is spent in purchasing coals for the poor at the beginning of winter. Even here, however, we are met with disadvantages, for the price being so low, families are anxious to have a whole pew to themselves, and would often pay willingly for more room than they can occupy. The only remedy hitherto found for this evil is, to insist that those who rent a pew should show how it is to be filled. In the galleries, a good many of the seats are free.

The manse was built in 1824. What is of it is in very good repair. Unfortunately, however, it was built for a bachelor, who could not get it made small enough; and the consequence is, that it is not “competent” for the accommodation of the present incumbent and his family. He has, therefore, been obliged to apply for an

\* On the spire there is the following inscription: D. O. M. S. Hoc campanile suis sumptibus extruendum curavit D. Johannes Anstruther de eodem Eques Baronettus anno aeræ Christianæ 1726. Perhaps the church may have been built at the same time. The appearance of both is much the same, and on looking at them, no one could suppose them to be nearly two hundred years old. But there is no reference to either in the session records:—and in so far as we can learn, the heritors have never had any books.

addition, in which he has had to contend with the agents of the principal heritor, who, although aware of the existing necessity, and at one time offering of their own accord a much more splendid one than he desired, have now, for some cause or other, given the proposal a decided opposition. Still, as the manse was originally built without the sanction, and even without the knowledge, of the Presbytery, being consequently, in the proper sense of the word, no manse at all, and as the necessary steps have been taken to obtain what is wanted, without any protest or interdict on their part, he doubts not that he will succeed in attaining the object. The glebe consists of 5 acres; and is let at L. 5, 15s. 6d. per acre—the value in all being thus L. 28, 17s. 6d. There is no grass glebe, though it is believed that the right to one exists; but it has never yet been prosecuted.

The stipend is one of those which receive aid from Government. It consists of 9 chalders 6 bolls of grain—of which there are 3 chalders of wheat, and 4 and 2 bolls of oats, the remainder being pretty equally divided betwixt barley and peas and beans. The Government allowance is L. 12, 14s. 8d. But even when all is added together, the stipend of the present incumbent, since he succeeded to the living, has, on an average, been L. 21 below the minimum. He believes that last year, owing to the fiars of wheat, in Fife being so low, he may boast of having had the smallest stipend in Scotland.

There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish. The number of individuals who are members of any dissenting congregation does not, it is believed, exceed 12. Certainly there are not more than 15; and these are divided among perhaps half a dozen different sects. There may also be a few who attend the ministrations of dissenters, without being joined in communion with them. Both members, however, and occasional hearers, taken together, cannot be more than from 20 to 25. We find also two or three who boast of attending no place of religious worship: but all the rest either are, or profess to be, attached to the Established Church. Divine service is always well attended. The number of communicants varies from 330 to 380. The collections at the church door average L. 30 per annum. We have no Societies for religious purposes: but an annual collection is made for one or other of the objects which the General Assembly has taken under its patronage. The average amount may be about L. 10. Sir W. C. Anstruther is patron of the parish.

*Education.*—There are what may be called three schools in the



parish. Of these the parochial is the chief. In it reading, writing, arithmetic, and Latin are required to be taught. The school-master's salary is the maximum; and his income as session-clerk may amount to betwixt L. 6 and L. 7. The fees will average L. 40; and besides this, he is in the habit of keeping boarders, for which the healthiness of the situation is well adapted. The school-house has more than the legal accommodation, but the garden is deficient. An allowance of L. 2 is made in place of what is wanting. One of the other schools is taught by a female. Besides reading, sewing forms one of the branches of education. The third is very trifling, and little known of it. But about fifty boys and girls from the parish attend a school at Earlsferry, where the wages may be a half-penny per week cheaper. All appear to be sensible of the advantages of knowledge; and there is nothing which parents labour so hard to procure as a good education for their children. In cases where, from poverty, nothing can be spared for this object, the session is ready to give assistance, always insisting, however, that the parents, if possible, shall give something—be it ever so little. There are none above fifteen years of age who cannot read. Perhaps a very few old people may be unable to write; but all betwixt five and fifteen can either read and write, or are learning to do so.

*Library.*—A subscription library has existed in the village for a considerable period. It contains some hundreds of volumes on the various branches of literature and divinity. New books of merit are constantly added as the state of the funds will admit. But as the yearly payment is small, and the number of the subscribers not great, it does not increase so fast as might be desired.

*Friendly Societies.*—The only institution of this kind is what is called the Sea Box, an association of masters of vessels and seamen for their mutual benefit. It lately obtained a charter from the King, conferring on it all the usual privileges of a corporation; and, as its income, arising from land, houses, &c. is large, and the number of widows and other annuitants small, the funds are in a flourishing state. It is fitted to be of great use to those for whom it is designed, and there is no class of men, perhaps, that require more the aid of such institutions. We have no savings' banks. And I know not that this is much to be regretted. It may be doubted whether they have ever been of much advantage.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons on the poor's roll is 20; of these some receive 8s. per month; some 6s.; some 4s.; and some as low as 2s. 6d., according to cir-

cumstances. The general average may be about 6s. ; but, besides this, there is an insane person to be maintained in the Dundee asylum. This individual does not belong to the parish, but was forced upon us by a very rigorous application of the law of settlement. We have also the family of a man who died of cholera to support. To meet these expenses, there are the weekly collections, averaging L. 30 per annum, L. 58 arising from land vested in the minister and elders, and L. 15, 12s., being the interest of money accumulated by the session, and lent at 4 per cent. to the road trustees—the whole amounting to upwards of L. 100. From this sum, however, there fall to be paid half of the session-clerk's salary, together with that of the precentor ; what is necessary for keeping up the school and school-house, and the fees of the synod and presbytery clerk. All of these may amount to L. 25, leaving something short of L. 80 for the use of the poor. Occasional help is also given to those who are verging towards poverty, in order to keep them as long as possible from becoming actual paupers. Some houses belonging to the session are also given to the poor rent free. The collections at the church door are not so liberal as they might be, owing, principally, we believe, to a foolish notion, that any deficiency must come upon the heritors. By them, however, not a single farthing has been furnished during the present incumbency for that object. All of them are non-resident. This state of matters will, in all probability, bring on, ere long, the necessity of at least a voluntary assessment. There are some instances of a refusal to be put on the poor's roll. But we have met with little of that Scottish spirit spurning at all assistance, which history or tradition records as having once existed.

*Inns.*—On coming to the parish, the writer found no less than 11 houses where spirituous liquors were retailed. The number is now greatly diminished. At present, there is only one inn. But there are four grocers, each of whom has a spirit license ; and, what is to be regretted, they all retail spirituous liquors, more or less, in their back shops or parlours. Some of them, we know, disliking this part of the business, are endeavouring to curtail it as much as possible ; and we hope that all will come in time to see the propriety of dropping, what we should imagine could not be very pleasant to themselves. They are all, however, very respectable. We never hear of any outrages taking place ; and it is seldom that a drunk person is to be seen on the street. The writer having been at some pains to get the number of tippling-houses reduced, he must do the licensing magistrates the justice to say,



that they were at all times ready to second his wishes. Whether an old license was to be withdrawn, or a new one to be withheld, they at once gave effect to his request; and he doubts not that, in other places, those who have an interest in putting down such houses, will find them equally willing to forward their desires by their authority and power. Nor is there any thing that would tend more to the improvement of the manners and morals of the people—drinking being the cause of by far the greater part of the mischief which we have to witness and lament.

*Fuel.*—Coals is the only fuel used in the neighbourhood. The whole district abounds in this valuable mineral; and it is wrought at the distance of half a mile from the village. By this means, there being little carriage, the expense is reasonable. There is, moreover, a good deal imported in winter both from Newcastle and from Bridgeness, near Grangemouth. The price of the former is commonly about 15s. per ton; that of the latter, 13s. This year both will be considerably higher. Towards the new year, from sixty to eighty cart loads are distributed among the poor,—many families getting them, which are not on the roll, and that receive nothing from the session funds in the course of the year. By this means, when the season is mild, as it has generally been of late, the people are well off, and pass the winter evenings at a blazing fireside.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

All accounts agree in stating that a great improvement has taken place in the parish, since the period of the last Statistical Account. By the new system of agriculture, and especially by the liberal employment of draining, the land has been brought into the highest state of cultivation; and grounds which, forty years ago, would have been thought good for nothing, are now seen waving with the richest harvests. The houses of the cottars, we believe, are equal to what those of the farmers were then; and the mansions of the latter surpass, both in appearance and comfort, such as the smaller proprietors formerly possessed. So much has already been done for the progress of agriculture, that little further remains to be accomplished. The comfort and happiness of the labouring classes might no doubt be promoted by a better education than they used to receive, by parents accustoming their children, from infancy, to habits of industry, and by abstinence from the use of ardent spirits. There is, however, an evident improvement going on both in their religious feelings, and in their moral conduct.

*December 1836.*

# PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER EASTER.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ROBERT WILSON, MINISTER.\*

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—THE parish of Anstruther Easter extends no farther than the limits of the Royal Burgh of the same name, and has no landward district attached. It is bounded on the west, by the parish of Anstruther Wester, from which it is divided by a rivulet; on the north, by the landward district of the parish of Kilrenny; on the east, by the large fishing town of Cellardyke; and on the south, by the Frith of Forth. The town is situated at the bottom of a small bay, from the west headland of which, called the Billyness, the best view of it is obtained. It has the appearance of a place well suited to the purposes of trade. The shore, though rugged and rocky, affords a sufficiently wide entrance to the harbour, which is commodious and safe, being protected by a natural break-water, as well as an excellent quay, from the heavy swell occasioned by the prevalence of south-east winds.

*Climate.*—Along the east coast of Fifeshire, the climate, particularly during the spring months, is generally cold, and is reckoned very prejudicial, where there is any tendency to pulmonary disease, cases of which description are rather numerous in this place. Apart from this peculiarity, the climate is, generally speaking, not unfavourable to health. Epidemics have not usually been very fatal, and during the prevalence of cholera in 1832–33, there were only a very few instances of it in the town. From its nearness to the German Ocean, the severity of the winter is moderated, the snow seldom lying long on the ground; and in like manner, the keenness of the sea-breeze produces, during summer, a refreshing coolness even in the hottest weather. To the same cause is usually ascribed

\* Drawn up by the Rev. David Swan, Assistant to the minister of the parish.



ed the scantiness of wood in the district, which gives it a bare and uninteresting appearance.

*Geology.*—The rocks along the shore are chiefly sandstone, and are used in building, though not well adapted for that purpose, as they always retain a certain dampness, which indicates itself even in some houses that are known to have been built two centuries ago. The dip of the strata is towards the south-east. There is a bank covered with large boulders, apparently of granites, immediately to the east of the mouth of the harbour. The town itself seems, from recent excavations made in building, to rest on stratified rocks of the description first mentioned, but apparently softer, and overlaid with a thick bed of clay, and retentive subsoil; and hence the water derived from springs is what is called hard, and unfit for culinary and household purposes, until filtered and corrected by carbonate of soda.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Anstruther Easter was erected into a royal burgh, by a charter of James VI. dated 18th December 1583. It does not hold burghage of the Crown, but feu of the family of Anstruther. Anstruther Easter was at one time possessed of lands lying near to Kingsbarns. The magistrates having engaged in a law-suit with Sir J. Anstruther, sold their lands about the year 1770, for L. 500, to pay the cost of the action. The same lands have since been sold for L. 5000. The revenue of the burgh arises chiefly from customs, and shore or harbour dues, &c. It has fallen off considerably since 1827. In the year ending Michaelmas 1832, it was L. 78, 3s., and at the same period, the debts due by the burgh amounted to about L. 485. The magistrates levy no taxes, except the cess due to government, and the customs and shore dues. They have the usual jurisdiction of magistrates within the royalty. There have been no civil causes tried in the Bailie Court since 1820. The town clerk acts as assessor to the magistrates, and his appointment is during pleasure of the magistrates and council. They appoint the burgh schoolmaster, procurator-fiscal, and town-officer. The council consists of nineteen members, including three bailies and a treasurer. The councillors are now elected according to the provisions of the 3 and 4 William IV. Like many other small towns, Anstruther Easter has of late years decreased much in wealth and importance. Though it is still the best market-town in the district, its decayed condition may be

judged of by the single fact, that the tonnage belonging to the port, at the date of the former Statistical Account, was 1400, and is now only 964. Capital seems to be flowing steadily to the larger towns, and with it of course that part of the population which cannot find employment here. Accordingly, the value of property is considerably lowered, and, while old tenements are suffered to fall into ruins, the number of new erections is comparatively small.

In the year 1710 Anstruther Easter was made a port, and a custom-house established. In 1827 it was made a sub-port, comprehending St Andrews, Crail, Pittenweem, St Monance, and Elie, with the establishment of a collector, comptroller, and tide-waiter; having also three coast-waiters, one at each of the following places, St Andrews, Crail, and Elie. This custom-house can correspond directly with the Board of Customs; but the accounts are usually transmitted to the custom-house at Kirkcaldy.

*Eminent Men.*—Anstruther Easter is the birth place of the Rev. Dr Chalmers, Professor of Divinity in the University of Edinburgh, and of that eminent oriental scholar Professor Tennant of St Andrews.

*Parochial Registers.*—The records of the kirk-session are preserved from the year 1641, down to the present time. They have been carefully kept, and are very legible. The register of baptisms during the same period is also preserved. Of marriages the record is less regular and entire.

*Ecclesiastical History.*—Previous to the year 1636, the town of Anstruther Easter formed part of the parish of Kilrenny. At that period, it was erected into a separate parish, and a church built. In the year 1641, the first minister was settled. The succession of ministers down to the present time seems to have been regular. Their names and the dates of their ordination or induction are as follows: Colin Adams 1641, Edward Thomson 1677, William Moncrieff 1686, William Woodrop 1691, James Nairne 1710, John Nairne, his son, 1764, who had been previously assistant and successor for twenty-one years, and Robert Wilson, the present incumbent, 1796.

The session records bear that presbyterial visitations had been occasionally held in the parish in former times, and that collections were sometimes made in the church for public works in the neighbourhood,—in one instance towards the erection of a bridge at St Andrews. They are chiefly filled, however, with accounts of the disbursement of money to the poor, to church officers, &c. and



with the administration of church discipline (to those guilty of immoral conduct) which far exceeded in minuteness and severity the discipline of modern times.

### III.—POPULATION.

For a great length of time the population of the parish of Anstruther Easter has varied very little.

In 1744 it was	1000
1764	900
At the date of former Statistical Account, above	1000
In 1831,	1007
At present it is believed that the number is considerably below	1000
The average number of baptisms during last 7 years is,	16
of marriages, do.	10
No accurate record of the number of deaths has been kept.	
Number of families in the parish,	255

In the former Statistical Account some instances of great age are mentioned. At present there is one individual in the parish in her ninety-third year, having all her mental faculties in full vigour, and able to attend divine ordinances every Sabbath.

Of the inhabitants of this parish generally it may be said, they are intelligent, but the vice of intemperance is by no means rare. The privilege of the town as a royal burgh, in electing a representative to Parliament, jointly with four other towns of nearly similar size, has been against the morality of the place, and it may also be added against its industry. The late change in the system of election, and the classing of this with the large and populous towns of Cupar and St Andrews in the exercise of the above-mentioned privilege, have already sensibly diminished the evils alluded to; and it is hoped that the interruptions to regular industry will be less frequent, and the temptations to immoral conduct less abundant. Infidelity has prevailed to some extent, chiefly through the influence and example of one or two individuals. The natural consequence of this has followed; disrespect to religious ordinances, and neglect of the moral and spiritual interests of the young. It is believed that worship is performed in comparatively few families. It must, however, be added, that there is a large body of the inhabitants of this parish, whose general conduct and habits entitle them to respect; and that there are a few who afford good evidence of being actuated by the spirit and the principles of vital Christianity.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

Formerly ship-building was carried on here to a considerable extent; but for the last ten years it has entirely ceased. There is a tan-work in the town, at which a considerable quantity of leather

is prepared, also a brewery, and a rope and sail-work. The proximity of the large fishing town of Cellardyke affords facilities for the business of fish-curing. About 600 barrels of cod are cured annually, besides great quantities of herrings in the month of February, when a shoal usually appears at the mouth of the Frith of Forth, and every person fit for labour finds employment. These are exported chiefly to the West India market. Considerable quantities of haddocks are smoked for the home-market. There are at present six fish-curiers in the town. The vessels belonging to the port are eleven in number, including two packets which sail weekly to and from Leith; the import being chiefly goods for the merchants, and the export, grain from the surrounding district of country. A weekly corn-market is held in the town on Saturday. The number of shops is considerable, greater than is necessary for the accommodation of the inhabitants of the parish; but they are frequented by the population of the neighbourhood, and afford at reasonable prices the articles required for household use. There is a mill in Anstruther Easter for the preparation of all kinds of meal.

*Wages.*—Wages are according to the rate usually given in the country, and vary of course with its commercial prosperity. Those of seamen, from L. 2 to L. 2, 10s. per month; of wrights about 3s. per day; of masons 2s. in winter, and 2s. 6d. in summer; of day-labourers from 1s. 6d. to 2s.; of women employed in fish-curing 1½d. per hour, in field labour 1d. per hour.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a post-office in the town, (not a sorting office.) The means of public conveyance are, a stage-coach, three times a-week, to Edinburgh, by way of Pettycur; a daily coach to the same city, during the greater part of the year, by way of Largo; and one daily to and from St Andrews. A branch of the National Bank of Scotland was established in Anstruther Easter in May 1832. The number of tradesmen is very considerable: bakers, 5; tailors, 5; master-masons, 4; blacksmiths, 3; saddlers, 2; tinsmith and plumber, 1; shoemakers, 9; wrights, 5; weavers, 6; butchers, 3; watchmaker, 1; bookbinder and stationer, 1. There are two excellent inns in the town; houses in which ale and spirituous liquors are sold, 13—a number far too great for the wants of the inhabitants; and there is no doubt that they have exercised a very prejudicial influence on their morals, by affording undue facilities to intemperance. In general, it may be observed, that



the necessaries and the comforts of life are abundantly furnished, and at a reasonable rate ; and that the expense of maintaining a family is materially lessened, by the constant and large supply of fish, brought into the town directly, or from the adjoining fishing station of Cellardyke.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is most conveniently situated in a large burying-ground, which is surrounded by an excellent wall. It was built in 1634; the spire was ten years later in being completed; and within it is the bell bearing to have been a gift from Andrew Strang, shipmaster. The roof of the church was repaired many years ago; and in 1834 it underwent a thorough repair internally, being entirely re-seated in the most commodious form, and having the pulpit placed in one end and a gallery in the other:—altogether, it is now probably one of the most elegant country churches anywhere to be seen. It was originally built by subscriptions, donations, and the personal labour of some of the parishioners; and has been upheld out of the seat rent fund, carefully husbanded by the kirk-session. The late repair was executed by means of that fund, and a sum borrowed on the security of the seat rents; and it must be observed, that, there being no heritors in the parish, and the town poor, had the fund alluded to not existed, it does not appear how that repair could have been effected. And it must also be stated, to the credit of the kirk-session, that they resisted, some years ago, an attempt to wrest from them the management of the seat-rents, and established their right, and have ever exercised it in a manner satisfactory to the whole community. The church is now seated for 630; the highest price of sittings is two shillings, and the lowest ninepence each; the free sittings are intentionally very few, that the indigent may not feel themselves degraded to the level of absolute pauperism. Within the church, and placed in the south wall, is a monument, supposed to be to the memory of one of the former ministers of the parish, Mr William Moncrieff. The manse was built in the year 1590, by James Melville, the nephew of the celebrated Andrew Melville, whose life has been so ably written by the late lamented Dr M'Crie. At that period the worthy and pious James Melville had the pastoral charge of what have long since been five parishes, viz. Kilrenny, Anstruther Easter and Wester, Pittenweem, and Abercromby. Having succeeded in obtaining ministers to the others, he devoted himself to Kilrenny, which then

included Anstruther Easter. In his Diary\* he says, "that the parishioners of Kilrenny bound themselves to build him a house, upon a piece of ground which the Laird of Anstruther gave freely for that purpose; but he adds, it would never have been perfected, unless the bountiful hand of his God had made him take the work in hand himself." The town and landward parish scarcely afforded half of the building materials; the remainder of the expense he bore himself,—the whole cost of the erection being upwards of 3500 marks, or about L. 190 Sterling. It remains to this day, with very few alterations, and these only in the interior, if we except a paltry addition made to it by a former minister, not at all in the substantial style of the original building. The situation is remarkably well chosen; the walls are of great thickness; the lower story consists of three vaulted cellars; the ceiling of the apartments in the second storey is as lofty as in most modern buildings; that of the third much less so. A staircase, in the form of a round tower, is carried up the whole height of the building, at the top of which there is a small apartment, commanding a very fine prospect, and having on the outside, chiselled in stone, these words—"The Watch Tower." This manse, at present far inferior to modern manses, might, with a judicious repair, be made a most commodious dwelling, and might remain for generations a monument of the judgment and liberality of one who, during his harassed life, was scarcely permitted to occupy it for any length of time together. It is ascertained that the burden of upholding the manse lies upon the town.

There is no glebe, properly so called, belonging to the minister of the parish of Anstruther Easter. The land which goes under that name, about nine acres, is a mortification as part of stipend, which is made up of several smaller mortifications; the tithes† of fish brought into port; a grant of part of the bishop's rents out of the lands of Kilrenny; and a sum from the Exchequer,—the amount of the whole may be estimated at nearly L. 200 per annum.

The outward means of spiritual improvement afforded to the parishioners are, public worship on the Sabbath, forenoon and

\* The Diary of James Melville was published in 1829, by the Bannatyne Club, from a manuscript in the Advocates' Library.

† The right to the tithes of fish was purchased by James Melville; and such was their value in his time, that he deemed them sufficient to afford a permanent stipend to the minister of the parish. Now, however, the tithes are with difficulty collected, and, though great quantities of fish are brought into the port, they have for many years yielded little.



afternoon, and occasionally also in the evening; the yearly celebration of the Lord's Supper in the month of May; a Sabbath evening school; prayer meetings held once in two months; and the usual visitations of the sick by the minister. The average yearly number of communicants for the first time is about 9. The communicants, in all, are about 330; of whom 85 are on the roll as male heads of families, according to the General Assembly's act on Calls. The probable average amount of extraordinary collections made in the church, for charitable and missionary purposes, is L. 8 annually. A Bible and Missionary Society, composed of members belonging to the Established Church in the parishes of Anstruther and Kilrenny, has, since its formation three years ago, distributed yearly to various missionary objects about L. 18.

There are three Dissenting meeting-houses in this parish—Burgher, Independent, and Baptist. The families connected with them, belonging to the parish, are, in all, about thirty-three. There is also a Bible and Missionary Society, composed of members belonging to the different denominations of Dissenters, whose funds are believed to be considerable.

*Education.*—There is only one school in the parish, the parochial or burgh school. The branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, and occasionally Latin. The average number of scholars attending the school is about 80. The school-house is upheld by the town, as also the teacher's dwelling-house, which has a good garden attached, and was lately rebuilt. The teacher is appointed by the Town-Council, and he has no other salary than L. 5, 6s. 8d. per-annum derived from the town. There are two mortifications, Henderson's and Walker's, of L. 4 and L. 2 respectively, on the former of which a number of poor children are educated.

*Friendly Societies.*—1. The Sea Box Society was formed in 1618, and incorporated by royal charter in 1784. The funds were originally raised by a subscription of 8d. in the pound of shipmasters and seamen's wages; latterly by one guinea from masters, and six shillings from seamen; annually. The rent of lands in the possession of the society amounts to about L. 390 per annum, out of which, provision is made for decayed shipmasters and seamen belonging to, or trading from the port, their widows, and children, and grandchildren if orphans. The management is vested in the shipmasters, who choose a box-master and clerk and

factor. The accounts are audited by the representative of the Anstruther family or by the minister of the parish, or both. This society is of great benefit to the parish.

2. The Trades Box, or Burgess and Trades Poor-Box Society possesses land, originally purchased with money accumulated from donations, mortcloth dues, &c. There is no annual subscription. It affords aid chiefly to aged and infirm freemen, whether residing in the town or not, and occasionally to those disabled by sickness. Its affairs are managed by a committee.

Besides these two, there are four other societies, that administer relief to their members in sickness and in old age, and also to their widows, and sometimes to their children. They are, 1. the Merchant Mechanic Box; 2. St Aile's Lodge of Free Masons; 3. the Friendly Society; 4. the Caledonian Gardeners' Lodge. They are all, so far as we can learn, under good management, and are of great service to many under the casualties of life.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—An assessment for the poor has never been resorted to in this parish. The number of the poor regularly receiving aid from the kirk-session funds is 18, and the average sum allotted to each per week is one shilling. The funds for this purpose arise from the contributions at the church door, which amount weekly to 8s. 6d.; from the rent of lands in the parishes of Pittenweem and Anstruther Wester, mortified for the behoof of the poor, and amounting to L. 34, 10s. An annual collection is made in the church, in the month of December, for the purpose of providing clothing to the poor, and usually amounts to L. 3. Besides this, about the same period of the year, a subscription is made by the inhabitants of the town, to procure a supply of coals for the poor, averaging L. 11. A female society was established this year, for aiding the destitute, and at present, 6d. per week to each of sixteen poor people is distributed from its funds. On the whole, the provision for the poor in this place appears ample, (subject of course to the usual burdens that fall on the funds under the management of kirk-sessions, such as salaries to church officers, aliment to illegitimate or deserted children, and relief to the occasional poor,) and the idea of levying an assesment on householders never having been entertained, there is not that haste in applying for relief amongst the poor, which is said to exist in many parishes in Scotland.

*January 1837.*



## PARISH OF CAMERON.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. THOMAS ADAMSON, A. M. MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—CAMERON became a separate and independent parish at a comparatively modern date. It anciently formed part of the widely extended parish of St Andrews. The following is from the presbytery records: "March 12th 1645, the which day was produced to the presbytery the act of Parliament for erecting the kirk of Cameron in a parish, and designing a maintenance thereto, which diligence is approven of by the presbytery, and the parishioners there are seriously desired to concur with the presbytery, to whom the right of patronage belongs, to condescend upon a man for filling that place." On the 6th of May the following year, that is, about fourteen months after the producing of the act of Parliament, Mr George Nairne was admitted to the "new erected kirk of Cameron."

The name of the parish was most probably taken from the farm of Cameron, upon which the manse and church were built. There is a disposition by Andro Law, citiner of St Andrews, of certain "five aikers of his lands of Cameron, for founding, erecting, causing build ane kirk and kirk yard, with ane manse for the minister, serving the cure thereat (viz. Cameron;) it is dated the "twentie day of June 1642."

The parish is of the figure of a parallelogram, and is in length, from east to west, between 5 and 6 miles, and in breadth about 4. It is bounded on the north by the parish of St Andrews; on the east, by Denino; on the south, by Carnbee and Kilconquhar; and on the west, by Ceres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish is undulating in its appearance; the ground rises from the north to the south boundary, by a succession of gentle elevations, running nearly parallel to one another from east to west, with rivulets flowing between them. The only hill is Drumcarro Craig, situated in the north-

west part of the parish, which is composed of whinstone rock, with generally a thin covering of soil; but in many places nothing but the bare rugged rock is to be seen.

*Hydrography.*—The parish is, for the most part, well supplied with perennial springs of excellent water, some of which issue from whinstone or freestone rock, others from sand.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—In almost every part of the parish, either coal, freestone, trap, whinstone, or limestone may be found. There is at present good coal got at Drumcarro. Limestone is wrought at Radernie and at Winthank. The lime at the former is of better quality than that at the latter place. From the great depth of the covering now above the rock at both places, the limestone is wrought under ground by boring the rock and blasting it with powder, and the stone carried out in carts to the kilns; but at Radernie a rail-road has been made last winter from the rock to the kilns, upon which the limestones are drawn in waggons, which is a great saving of labour. The roof is found to stand well, and to be altogether safe, notwithstanding the blasting. The covering above the rock is of the thickness of 35 feet, 30 feet of which is composed for the most part of clay, and 5 feet of bad limestone. The rock itself is of the thickness of 9 feet, and dips in a northerly direction one foot in three. The trap or whinstone is of excellent quality, and is finely adapted for making and keeping in repair the roads in the district. There is only one freestone quarry wrought for sale at present, in the parish at Hazzleden,—which is of pretty good quality generally; but there are a great many wrought by the proprietors and tenants for building and making drains. There is a great difference of soil in the parish; some parts of it is composed of clay, others of black earth, with a retentive substratum; some of it is a poor moorish soil recumbent upon tenacious clay, or moorband; other parts are of a dry nature, recumbent upon gravel or upon whinstone rock. In general, the northern and lower part of the parish is the best, though in the southern there is some good land. The depth of soil varies from two inches to upwards of two feet.

*Botany.*—There has been a good deal of the worst land in the parish planted with larch, Scotch, and spruce firs, within the last thirty years, which greatly improves the climate and appearance of the country. In general they seem to do well where the soil is of moderate depth, and not very wet; but where it is thin and wet, they do not seem to thrive, and are short and stunted. Beech seems to thrive well in this part of the country as a hedge,



but there is little of it planted otherwise. There are some very fine beech hedges on the grounds of Kinaldie and Lathockar. There is a large sycamore plane at Priorletham, the upper branches of which are now considerably decayed, and it is quite rotten into the heart in some places. The following is an account of it drawn up by Mr Sang, nurseryman, Kirkaldy, in September 1818. The Priorletham sycamore plane-tree grows upon a rocky knoll. The shortness of its bole, the great spread of its top, and its general contour, seems to indicate that it has been a lone tree from its infancy. Nevertheless, though it has been deprived of the shelter which might have been afforded by contiguous trees, it has grown to a great size. The bole is 12 feet in height. The girth at the surface of the ground is 26 feet, at the middle 15 feet 4 inches, and at the upper part, from whence the branches are set forth, it also girths 26 feet. The principal branches, which are ten in number, are like so many considerable trees, some of them being 2 feet diameter. The general height of the top is about 65 feet. The diameter of the circle over which it spreads itself is 90 feet. A sycamore in such a situation, and under such circumstances, will have grown well, if it acquired a diameter of bole of 2 feet in 100 years; and if we calculate its increase of magnitude at the same ratio, then this tree will be 300 years of age; but when a tree is in its prime of growth, it acquires greater accession of solid wood than subsequently; for subsequently, the capillary tubes become more rigid, and the circulation of the juices more languid; and a limit is fixed by nature, when all accession of magnitude ceases. It therefore follows, that the annual layers of wood, forming the last 2 feet of diameter, have required a greater length of time to produce it than that immediately preceding, and I should not hesitate to allow it 150 years. But it cannot be less than eighty years since the tree arrived at its climax of growth. It has, during all that period, been in a progress of decay. At this time, many of the topmost branches are dead, and in several crevices of the bole decomposition is apparent. Its death may be greatly accelerated by the moisture retained on a flat space covered with grass, some 2 or 3 feet in diameter, on the top of the bole where the branches take their rise. The tree may, however, survive sixty or eighty years longer. From the above observations it will follow that the Priorletham sycamore or plane-tree cannot be of a less age than 430 years, or perhaps nearer 450.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, John Anstruther

Thomson, Lambieletham and Wilkieston; William Lindesay of Feddinch; Thomas Elder M'Ritchie of Denork; Thomas Graham Bonar of Greigston; Thomas Horsburgh of Lathockar; Alexander Purvis of Kinaldie; James Wemyss of Winthank; and James H. Rigg, Drumcarro.

*Parochial Registers.*—The date of the earliest registers of births and marriages is 1695, with a chasm from 1709 to 1717. They have been regularly kept. A most voluminous record of discipline commences in 1694, and is continued to 1739.

The only mansion-house of any note in the parish is Mount Melville, the residence of John Whyte Melville, Esq.

### III.—POPULATION.

There are only three persons of independent fortune resident in the parish. The population of the parish has been increasing for the last forty years, and during the forty years before that period it seems to have been decreasing. The cause of the decrease during that time appears to have been the inclosing and letting in grass from year to year of a number of farms; and during the latter period, the high prices got for agricultural produce caused a number of them to be let for tillage, and consequently a number of more hands were required for the cultivation of the land. There have been likewise a good many houses feued in the parish, at Westfield of Radernie, which is another cause of the increase in the population. The population may be said to be wholly agricultural and resident in the country, as the houses that are collected at Denhead, Radernie, and Lathones, can scarcely be termed villages.

The average number of births for the last seven years, is	26
of deaths,	10
of marriages,	8
The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards,	22
of unmarried men upwards of 50 years of age,	11
women upwards of 45,	26
of insane persons is,	1
of fatuous,	1
of deaf and dumb,	5
Number of families in the parish,	255
chiefly employed in agriculture,	87
in trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	29

There are no customs, games, or amusements, prevalent in the parish. The people in general are sober, frugal, and industrious in their habits. They are cleanly in their persons and apparel, and their houses are for the most part neat and comfortable. There is nothing peculiar in their manner of dress; the short-gown and petticoat which, within these few years, were generally worn by the



females, are completely exploded, and the printed gown is now universally seen. On Sunday, they dress very showily, and the merino and silk gown are quite common. Each family feeds a pig or two, and sometimes three in the year, the flesh of which, with the garden stuffs, forms a very comfortable and wholesome meal for dinner; porridge and milk are the common breakfast of males, and tea and oat-cakes or wheaten bread and butter, of females; tea is generally used in the evening; and for supper, either porridge and milk, or herrings and potatoes; cheese is often used in the evening, and at dinner and supper. Where industrious habits prevail, the people may be said to enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are generally contented with their situation and circumstances. Engaged for the most part in agricultural operations, and not brought together in great numbers, they are not exposed to those various temptations with which the manufacturing population in large towns are surrounded, and are characterized by an independence of mind, and decency of behaviour, which generally accompany rural life. They are intellectual, religious, and moral, and show a great regard for all the ordinances of religion. Poaching does not prevail to a great extent, and smuggling is altogether unknown.

During the last three years there were 5 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—Almost all the land in the parish has the appearance of having been under the plough at a former period, as it still retains in some places the high ridges and low furrows of ancient times; but upon part of Wintham and Gilmerton, there is still a great quantity of heath; and the land lying barren and unproductive, with no appearance of the hand of man having ever been upon it. Land, notwithstanding the cheapness of agricultural produce, does not seem to be going out of cultivation, and allowed to lie in pasture, but the reverse,—as, within these few years, a considerable quantity of pasture land has been broken up, and kept, I understand, profitably under the plough, and more will be added to that which is already in tillage.

		A.	R.	F.	
The number of acres in the parish which are cultivated, or occasionally in tillage, as far as can be ascertained,	-	4686	3	6	Scotch
under wood,	-	476	1	34	
permanent pasture,	-	1767	0	13	
waste,	-	214	1	22	

The number of acres in the parish, therefore, is, 7144 2 35

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of land varies considerably in the parish. The land on the north side of the parish under the plough may be let at from L. 1 to L. 2 per Scotch acre. On the south side, it may be let at from 10s. to L. 1, 6s. per do. The rents of the farms which are let from year to year in grass, vary from 2s. 6d. to L. 3; the average perhaps about L. 1 per Scotch acre. Should these farms be broken up, thoroughly limed and drained, and afterwards laid down in grass, or 'only drained and limed on the surface, I would consider it as a very profitable outlay of capital, besides giving employment to a great many labourers in the district.

The real rent of the parish arising from land, as nearly as can be ascertained, is L. 8600 : arising from mines, &c. L. 400.

*Rate of Wages.*—The yearly wages of an unmarried ploughman are, L. 10, 10s. or L. 11, with 6½ bolls of oatmeal, and one Scotch pint of new milk from the cow, and one boll of potatoes of 4 cwt. for supper, with lodging in a bothy, and coals; of a married ploughman, L. 8, with a cow kept for him during the year, or L. 10 without a cow; but with one Scotch pint of sweet milk, as much ground as will plant half a boll of potatoes, and as much as half a peck of linseed will sow, together with a house and garden. The yearly wages of a female servant who lives in the house are, from L. 5, 5s. to L. 7. Women who work out of doors have 8d. per day without victuals, from eight in the morning to six in the evening, with an hour for dinner; taking up potatoes, 1s. with dinner; day-labourers are paid 1s. 4d. in winter, and 1s. 6d. in summer, without victuals, from eight in the morning to darkness in winter, and from eight in the morning to six in the evening in summer, having one hour allowed for dinner; wrights and masons have 2s. 6d. per day for the same hours; smiths are generally paid from L. 1, 15s. to L. 2, 10s. per pair of horses, not furnishing either the mould-board or side-plates of the ploughs.

*Live Stock.*—Some years ago the Teeswater breed of cattle was greatly esteemed, or crosses from that and the Fifeshire; but the Fifeshire is now greatly preferred, and the pure breed sells at high prices. The Teeswater kind was found to be not so hardy, nor so easily fattened, the flesh coarser, and they did not attain the weight that they are brought to in England,—whereas the Fife cattle were found to be much hardier, easier kept and fattened, the flesh much more fine and delicate, and the animal to reach the same and often more weight than the Teeswater.

*Husbandry.*—There is nothing remarkable in the husbandry of



the district. The common plough drawn by two horses is in daily use. The trenching and subsoil plough have both been tried, but neither are as yet in general use in the parish; but I should consider that there could not be a greater improvement to the parish generally than the use of the latter; as most of the land is recumbent upon a very retentive substratum, when rain falls, the earth soon gets saturated; whereas were the bottom opened by the subsoil plough, the water would get into the land, and off by the drains, and thus the quantity of rain which made the land before unfit for tillage would never occur, and the plough would be kept profitably at work. Of manure, besides the common farm-yard dung, lime is in constant use, and is found to be most beneficial when applied to land that has never been limed, or to that which has lain long in grass. The second and third application of it has been found not to be productive of so much good, but still lime can be beneficially applied at all times. There is an abundant supply of it at Radernie and Wintham, sold at from 2s. to 2s. 6d. per boll, old barley measure. Bone-dust has also been tried successfully in the rearing of turnips, but this will not prove such a benefit to this part of the country, from the wetness of the soil not admitting the turnips being eaten off by sheep, as it must be to the dry upland farms of Scotland.

*Improvements.*—The condition of farm-buildings in the parish is in general good, and the offices well laid out for the various purposes of rural economy. The houses of the tenants are generally two stories high, and wide in proportion, and most of the modern buildings are covered with slates. In general agreements as to new erections and repairs, the tenant engages to drive the materials, such as lime, stone, sand, wood, slate, &c. and the landlord pays for the erection of the buildings. In some instances also, with regard to the draining of land, the landlord pays for the opening and laying the drains, the tenant quarrying the stones and carrying them, which may be said to be for their mutual advantage. There is one thrashing-machine in the parish which has a steam power; the rest are wrought by horses. The duration of leases is nineteen years, and perhaps, in a country where so much requires to be done, it would be better to extend the lease to a longer period, to encourage the tenant to improve his land, and allow him a sufficient time to reap the full benefit of his outlay. The greater part of the parish is already enclosed with hedges and dikes, and the enclosure of the rest is proceeding gradually. On the farm of South Lambieytham, the proprietor is at present opening all the

drains, the tenant being at the expense of quarrying the stones and driving them. Since the purchase of Kinaldie, lately, considerable improvements have been made by the proprietor, who has broken up part of the pasture, in which it has long lain, and is draining and liming it. He has also built a farm-steading, and made an excellent road to it. At Cameron also, a marked improvement has taken place within the last fourteen years,—a good road having been made to the farm, and a farm-house and steading built, enclosing the land by stone dikes, thorn and beech hedges, and by the drainage of the land.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount and value of raw produce yearly raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows:

Grain of all kinds, . . . . .	L. 14400
Potatoes, turnips and hay, . . . . .	5700
Land in permanent pasture, . . . . .	1750
Gardens, . . . . .	200
Thinnings of plantations, . . . . .	50
Quarries, . . . . .	500
Coals, . . . . .	2000

Total yearly value of raw produce raised, L. 24600.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is St Andrews, where there is a post-office and daily post, distant about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the manse, which is situated about the centre of the parish. Ample means of communication are enjoyed by the inhabitants with the surrounding country. There is a turnpike road from St Andrews to the south coast, which passes through the centre of the parish, a little to the eastward of the manse, along which a coach from St Andrews to Largo passes three days a-week to meet the steam-boat from Edinburgh. There is another turnpike from Newport ferry, opposite Dundee, to the Forth, which passes through the west part of the parish, and these are joined together by another at Higham Loan. A great improvement has taken place in the district within these few years, by the opening of a new line of road a little to the south-east of the manse, to the east, where it joins the St Andrews road to Anstruther at Wakefield. Formerly great inconvenience was experienced from the want of more direct means of communication to the south and east coast, as the only way at that time for a carriage was to go by the road leading by Balcarres dikes, which is now entirely obviated. There are ten bridges in the parish, and three leading into it, which are all in good repair.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is nearly in the centre of the parish, betwixt two and three miles distant from the extremities on



the E. and W., and about two from the N. and S., and is in as central and eligible a situation as could well be fixed upon. It was built in the year 1808, and is a very plain building, covered with blue slate, with a belfry on the west gable, and is at present in a good state of repair. The old church was in a very ruinous state before divine service was given over in it. The present incumbent has got drenched in the pulpit when preaching, and stepping stones were placed along the passages, as after rain they became a complete sheet of water. The church is very neat in the inside, and is seated to contain 495 persons. There are none of the seats let; they are all apportioned to the different heritors, according to their valued rents, and they, with their tenants and servants, occupy them. The manse was built to the present incumbent, immediately after he was presented to the parish, in the year 1799, and cost L. 355. It received an addition, and got a repair in 1823, which cost L. 50, and is at present in good repair. The offices are old, and have little convenience. The glebe and garden, with the site of the manse and offices, contain 5 acres, 1 rood, 24 falls, Scotch, and is good land. The grass glebe contains 15 acres, and, except about an acre and a-half, is constantly in pasture; part of it is bog, and some of it marshy ground, from which good meadow hay is got. The value of the whole may be about L. 10. The stipend amounts to 36 bolls, 3 firloths, 3 pecks,  $1\frac{3}{4}$  lippies, barley; 28 bolls of meal; 140 bolls, 2 firloths, 1 peck, 2 lippies, oats; and L. 24, 10s. 7d., with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. There is also payable from St Andrews parish, L. 144, 10s. Scotch of vicarage, the collecting of which is very troublesome, being due by a great many properties in very small sums. There is one Burgher meeting-house situated on the border of this parish, adjoining the parishes of Kilconquhar and Carnbee, where there are a considerable population at a great distance from their parish churches. The number of families of Dissenters is computed at 12.

Divine service is always well attended at the parish church. The average number of communicants is 450.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school, the teacher of which has the maximum salary, which amounts to L. 34, 4s.  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d., a good dwelling-house and school-room, and rather more than the maximum allowance of garden ground. The school fees may amount to L. 10 per annum. He also receives L. 3, 10s. as clerk to the heritors and kirk-treasurer, and L. 2, 10s. as session-clerk. There are likewise two private schools,—one situated at Lawhead, and the other

at Denhead, both depending on the school fees, and both having free school-rooms; a free dwelling-house being also attached to the latter. The branches usually taught at the parish school are, English, English grammar, writing and arithmetic. The same branches are taught at the other schools. The school fees at the parish school are, for English grammar, per quarter, 3s. 6d.; reading, 2s. 6d.; writing and reading, 3s.; reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s. 6d. At the other schools each branch is 6d. per quarter higher.

There are very few persons in the parish beyond the age of six years who cannot read and write. The people seem all very much alive to the advantages of education, and are anxious to give their children as much learning as possible. Children of paupers, and those whose means are very circumscribed, are educated at the parish school gratuitously. Ample means of education are provided, and none of the children are so distant as to prevent attendance at school.

*Friendly Society.*—About twenty years ago, a friendly society existed in the parish, but, from giving too large an allowance to members and widows, before the society had accumulated sufficient capital, it got into debt, and was dissolved by general consent.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—There are at present on the poor's roll 12 persons. The average sum allotted to each, per week, is 9d. There are, besides, a few who receive aid occasionally. They are all supported by the church collections, which amounted in the year ending 1835, to L. 17, 12s.; and the rent of 2 acres 5 poles, imperial of land, which was lately let by public roup at L. 7, 2s. In general the poor consider it as degrading to come upon the parish, but there are instances to the contrary, where there is no reluctance to apply, and no degradation felt to receive a regular support.

*Inns.*—There are 8 houses in the parish licensed to sell whisky, and two where only beer is sold, which is more than are necessary for the convenience of the inhabitants.

*Fuel.*—Plenty of coals can be procured at Drumcarro, in the parish, and at Largoward, bordering upon the parish, but situated in that of Kilconquhar,—which cost, on an average at both places, 1s. 6d. per load of 3 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The alteration in the appearance of the parish since the present incumbent first knew it, is very striking. Then, a great quantity of heath was to be seen from the windows of the manse, now it has altogether disappeared; and instead of the comparatively barren



waste, neat enclosures and fields waving with yellow corn, meet the eye, affording a rich reward for the pains and industry of the cultivator, and producing abundance of food, by the bounty of that Almighty Being who governs the universe, both for man and beast. The quantity of wood now rising on all sides contributes to enrich the prospect, besides tending materially to alter the climate, in connection with the extensive system of drainage which is now pursued.

The condition of the people is much improved. The article of potatoes has contributed materially to bring about this change, not only in affording nourishment to themselves, but in enabling them to acquire a considerable quantity of excellent bacon, which before could only be procured at mills, and at a high price. Tea has also become a new article of comfort and consumption, which the rise in the price of labour, since its introduction into this country, has enabled them to procure. The superior clothing, too, since the introduction of steam, forms another striking proof of the comfort of the peasantry. Formerly both the woollen and common spinning wheel were in constant use, now the former is never, and the latter is seldom to be seen, the cloth being to be had much more cheap in the shops than it can be manufactured at home.

When this country was visited by that awful scourge, the Asiatic cholera, by which so many millions of the human race were destroyed since 1817, meetings were held for the suppression of vagrancy in the district, as it was thought that vagrants, going from place to place, carried the infection along with them, and a constabulary police force was then appointed for its suppression, and is still kept up. The officer makes regular rounds with a book, in which entries are made by all respectable householders, of the number, description and appearance of any vagrant, or strolling mendicant, who may from time to time appear, with their supposed route; who is thereby enabled to apprehend and lodge in jail, or pass to their proper places, all such vagrants and sturdy beggars as may be found in the district. Since this force has been appointed, the happiest results have followed; the country being made free from those vagrants, who, when at times refused their exorbitant demands, poured forth torrents of abuse and oaths, and were not at all scrupulous in taking what they could lay their hands upon; and our highways are now free from those exhibitions of squalor, filth, and deformity, with which they formerly abounded.

*January 1837.*

## PARISH OF KILCONQUHAR.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. WILLIAM FERRIE, D. D., MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—CEAUNIUCHAIR and Kilconquhar are obviously Gaelic words. *Ceaun* signifies a *head, part above, limit, extremity, termination*. *Iuchair* is a common name for a *stream or river*, especially a stream which issues from a lake. *Iuchair* is also applied to a fresh-water lake. *Ceaun-Iuchair*, without shifting one letter, signifies the extreme end, or upper extremity of the fresh-water lake, or the head or part above water. This is perfectly descriptive of the situation of the church, and church-yard or burying-place of this parish. It is an eminence on the edge, or at the head, of a fresh-water lake. The lake evidently at one time had covered all the low ground to the north and west, as well as to the south of the eminence, on which the church stands. Then, this eminence might very properly have been called the head of the lake, or part above water. *Kil*, as every one knows, signifies a cell, a church-yard, or place of worship; Kilconquhar therefore signifies the cell, the burying-place, or place of worship at the head or extremity of the fresh water lake. On this spot, in all probability, there was a Druidical place of worship and a burying-place, long before the introduction of Christianity. When the old church was taken down in 1821, the foundation of the oldest part of it was from twelve to fifteen feet below the surface of the earth, although it was built on dry firm ground. Both within and without the building, to all this depth, immense quantities of human bones were found. There can be little doubt that this great accumulation of earth had arisen from the multitude of human bodies that had been interred here.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—This parish extends in length from Earlsferry on the south, to Bruntshields on the north, a distance of about 9 miles. Its average breadth is about 2 miles. It is bounded on the south by the Frith of Forth, and the parish of Elie; on the east, by the parishes of Abercrombie or St Monance, and



Carnbee ; on the north, by Cameron and Ceres ; on the west, by the parishes of Largo and Newburn, and Largo bay. It contains about 16 square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface of the parish, although somewhat irregular, is so level as to be nearly all arable. With the exception of Kincairg hill, the land in the south part of the parish is, generally speaking, flat, rising gently towards the north for four miles, till it reach Reres, and Kilbrachmont, which form part of a ridge 600 feet above the level of the sea, terminated by Largo-Law on the west, and Kellie-Law on the east. To the north of Reres, a deep ravine separates the south from the north parts of the parish, making two nearly equal divisions. From this ravine, the land again rises gradually towards the north for two miles, till it reach its greatest elevation, 750 feet at Dunikier-Law. From this hill it declines towards the north for nearly two miles, when by a gentle acclivity it reaches Bruntshields, the northern extremity of the parish.

Various parts of the parish command rich and extensive prospects. From Dunikier Law, the estuaries of Forth and Tay are seen at nearly equal distances, covered, in good weather, with ships carrying the commerce of the country to and from every quarter of the globe. The land view here is very extensive, comprehending the Angus-shire, Perthshire, and Argyleshire mountains on the north and west, and the Berwickshire hills on the south. From Reres and Kilbrachmont, but especially from Balcarres Craig, which projects a little more to the south, is one of the richest and most splendid views imaginable. Here, you look down upon all the richly wooded and highly cultivated lands, with the coast towns, and family mansions, from Dysart on the west, to Crail on the east ;—on the Frith of Forth with its ships and islands ; and beyond it, on the fertile county of East Lothian : while Edinburgh, with the Linlithgow and Pentland hills, terminate the view to the south-west, the Lammermuir hills to the south, and the German Ocean to the east.

*Meteorology.*—No regular meteorological tables are kept here. The temperature varies a little in the higher and lower parts of the parish, but the medium is about 47°. The climate is very salubrious, and the inhabitants are generally healthy. Diseases of an infectious nature rarely appear here. Colds and inflammatory affections may be said to be the most prevalent diseases. When

cholera morbus lately visited the country, this parish entirely escaped its ravages.

We have certain prognostics of changes of weather. When clouds rest on Largo Law, we expect soon to have rain.\* When the wind blows from the west or north-west we have our best weather. When the sea is heard making a noise towards Ardross, or St Monance, we are sure soon to have bad weather from the east. When the same kind of noise is heard towards Kincaig, or up the Frith we expect the storm to abate. This noise is only heard when the wind is from the east.

*Hydrography.*—Largo bay, which forms the S.W. boundary of the parish, from being protected by the bold headland or promontory of Kincaig, from the heavy seas, which roll with great fury along the shore in high easterly winds, affords a safe and excellent anchorage for ships, when detained in the Frith by E. and N. winds. It is not uncommon to see forty or fifty vessels of different sizes, lying here in perfect safety, during heavy N. E. winds. In this bay stake-nets have lately been erected, and salmon are caught, although not in great numbers.

Kilconquhar loch is a beautiful sheet of fresh water, lying immediately to the south of the church and village, about two miles in circumference, and half a mile in diameter, encircled with wood on the west, south, and south-east sides. This lake abounds with pike and eel, both of which are often caught of large size. In some parts it is very deep, and long in freezing. The oldest tombstone in the church-yard bearing an inscription, is upon the grave of “William Ballantine, laird of Kilconquhar, who was drowned skating on the loch, on the 28th February 1593, aged 28 years.” Little or no water runs into the lake. It is supplied almost entirely by springs. A clear and copious stream issues from it, and falls into the sea at Elie. This lake has long been a favourite haunt of swans.† There are thirty of these majestic

\* The two following old distiches, which are in use among the people here, express the result of their observations: Largo Law lies to the west, Kellie Law to the east; our rains most frequently come from the west.

1.

When Largo Law puts on his hat,  
Let Kellie Law beware of that.

2.

When Kellie Law gets on his cap,  
Largo Law may laugh at that.

† A famous witch of Pittenweem is said to have been drowned here, and the loch appears to have had swans in it at that time:—



fowls upon it at present ; a few years ago there were fifty. The swans support themselves entirely by what they find in the water, except when it is frozen, when they require to be fed. They breed regularly, and would multiply fast, were it not that their nests are often destroyed in spring. Wild duck, teal, and a great variety of water-fowls frequent the lake. In 1823, about twenty wild swans alighted in it during the severe weather, and remained till the storm abated, when they took their departure.

No river runs through the parish, and only one brook or stream with water sufficient to drive machinery. This stream, which has different names, as it passes different places, takes its rise in the upper parts of the parish, and is increased by several small streamlets as it descends. The water of this stream, with the assistance of dams, drives, in its course, five corn-mills, and one lint or flax mill. It falls into Largo bay, at Shooter's Point, and at its embouchure is the line of division betwixt this parish and that of Newburn. The streamlets, which take their rise to the north of Dunikier Law, run in a northerly direction, till they join some of the tributary streams of the river Eden, which discharges itself into St Andrews Bay. Copious springs, of excellent quality, are every where to be found in the parish, and rarely is any scarcity of water felt.

*Soil.*—There is considerable variety in the soil, but it is generally fertile, and nearly all under cultivation. In the lowest, or most southerly part of the parish, it is light loam, with a mixture of sand. As you recede from the sea, it becomes deeper. Between Kilconquhar and Colinsburgh, there is a strath of rich alluvial soil, which extends in a south-easterly direction till it reach Balbuthie. From this strath to Colinsburgh it is more light and sandy, but sharp and fertile. All the rising ground above Colinsburgh, including the lands of Balcarres, Charleton, and the south parts of Reres and Killbrachmont, is a black loam, and being in the highest state of cultivation, yields abundant crops. To the north of Reres, the climate becomes colder, and the soil less uniform. Still it is, generally speaking, good, and in favourable seasons is very productive. From its elevation, in later seasons the crops are more uncertain.

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“ They took her to Kinniuchar Loch,  
And threw the limmer in,  
And a the swans took to the hills,  
Scar'd with the unhaely din.”

*Witches of Pittenweem.*

*Geology.*—The great independent coal formation characterizes, throughout, the length and breadth of this parish. Our space, however, will permit us to give only a very general description of a district, which, both in a scientific and economical point of view, presents a field of inquiry of the most interesting and important character.

If a line be drawn from Kinraig Hill on the S. W. to Bruntshields on the N. W., and another from Balbuthie quarry on the S. E. to Lingo Hill in the parish of Carnbee, about a mile and a-half beyond the N. E. extremities of this parish, a space of nearly 32 square miles will be included, every spot of which is occupied with some member of the coal formation, and a considerable portion of the whole included area, with the useful mineral itself. Three well marked divisions, at different levels and elevations, occur in the line of this course, which comprise separate and distinct coal fields, geographically as well as physically distinguished from each other. The first of these embraces the Grange or Earlsferry coal field, which lies along the shore, and inclines towards the sea; the second includes the Reres and Balcarres coal district, inland about four miles, and elevated above the former upwards of 400 feet. Lathallan, Largoward, and Falfield coals, occupy the high tableland toward the northern limit of the parish, the last attaining an elevation of about 700 feet above the level of the sea. These separations, and elevations, of the once continuous beds of the coal measures, have obviously been occasioned by the interposition of the trap rocks, which occur so abundantly among them; the principal of which are Kinraig Hill, Balcarres Craig, Kilbrachmont-Knock, Reres Craig, and Dunikier-Law. Dislocations, and shiftings, and upheavings, in every possible form and variety, are exhibited in each of the coal fields; but, as may be naturally expected, these curious phenomena abound most in the upper or last division.

Kinraig Hill, on the S. W. extremity of the parish, springs immediately from the beach, to the height of nearly 200 feet above the level of the sea. The southern aspect is nearly vertical, presenting to the surf a bold rugged front of precipitous rock. Here M'Duff's cave affords an object of attention to all the lovers of the picturesque, while the student of geology, if he has courage to pursue his journey to the westward, will be amply rewarded for his exertions. In a line of section of little more than half a mile, nearly every member of the trap family of rocks may be met with, basalt, greenstone, clinkstone,



amygdaloid, trap-tuffa, wacke, and clay-stone porphyry. The trap-tuffa and amygdaloid are beautifully reticulated by innumerable veins of calcareous spar, varying from a thin film, to several inches in thickness. The basalt is disposed in elegant columns, consisting of small jointed pentagonal masses, which are piled upon one another in a regular and vertical order. These columns are sometimes collected into groups, which are separated from each other by seams or rents. The spaces between the jointed concretions are composed of a looser matter than the concretions themselves; and it is by the falling out of this less compact substance that the structure of the whole is so beautifully developed. Large masses or aggregations of columns, sometimes separate, and fall down into the sea, by the action of which they are broken into smaller fragments, when they are rounded and polished into a variety of forms. This basalt has a greyish-black colour, opaque, with a small conchoidal fracture, and is hard enough to cut glass, or to strike fire with a steel.

Earlsferry point exhibits the same interesting appearances, between which and Kinraig a small bay intervenes, where at low water the stratified rocks, and edges of the coal-field may be observed, in immediate contact with those of the trapean class. Sandstone, shale, and slate-clay occur here, all of them much altered, but especially the shale, which is greatly indurated, having in some places the colour and texture of fire-brick. The slate-clay is converted into flinty-slate, and in such specimens the vegetable impressions are completely effaced. The shale contains a considerable quantity of ironstone nodules; patches of sandstone, in the form of flattened globular concretions, also occur, which are invested with a bituminous or carbonaceous coating. The sandstone affords abundance of the stems or trunks of trees, from an inch to several inches in diameter: the cortical part of these is entirely covered with regular impressions of leaves, ranging round them in spiral lines, and in the interior, an included portion resembling a cylinder may be observed, usually of a higher colour than the rest of the mass, and traversing it in a direction parallel to the axis of the stem. If this portion is to be considered as representing the pith, the plants possessed of it, according to Steinhauer, may justly be supposed to have constituted an intermediate order between the *Palmaceæ* and *Coniferæ*.

Immediately to the east of this interesting series of rocks, the

Grange coal-works are situated, the metals of which consist of nine seams; the largest being about eight feet thick. This coal-field is traversed by three trap dikes or veins, which have produced the usual effects upon the minerals, those in contact being charred, and in some places thrown into a vertical position. The strata incline to the west at an angle of  $12^{\circ}$ .

As we approach the Balcarres coal-field, some very interesting sections may be observed, in the Den, of an alternating series of sandstone, shale, coal, and ironstone, and the manner in which these have been upheaved and altered by the igneous rocks. The stream, already mentioned, traverses this beautiful ravine for the space of nearly two miles, and has laid open the outcrop of the whole series, as they have been deposited one above another. Towards the lower extremity of the Den, the attention is first arrested by a projecting mass of trap-tuffa, which is very friable, and easily yields upon the slightest compression, its several component parts, consisting of shale, coal, sandstone, ironstone, clinkstone, basalt, varying from portions of half an inch to a foot or more in diameter, and which are all imbedded in a paste of claystone. This dike (for such it may be considered,) is very interesting, both by its great extent, stretching as it does from Kincaig Hill, to the opposite coast of Fife, where it may be observed to the eastward of St Andrews, forming the *rock and spindle*, and likewise by the proof it affords, from its composition, that it must have owed its origin to causes in action at a period long subsequent to the formation of the coal, and consolidation of the adjacent rocks. The strata dip from this towards the N. W., at an angle of  $29^{\circ}$ . The dip increases as they approach Balcarres Craig, where, a few hundred yards to the north, across the stream, the sandstone may be seen capping a mass of greenstone, and dipping nearly due north at an angle of  $50^{\circ}$ . Here the sandstone is very little indurated, though in immediate contact with the trap. Balcarres-Craig, which is a picture in itself, rising abruptly from the bottom of the ravine, to the height of 200 feet, and completely insulated from the surrounding hills, consists of clinkstone split up, as may be observed on the south side, into tabular masses, and exhibiting on the top a considerable display of the columnar structure. It is of a dark bluish colour, close-grained, and compact, and has been mistaken for basalt; but upon minute inspection, it will be found to possess the qualities of a compact felspar or clinkstone rock. At the



entrance of the quarry a vein of greenstone occurs, a continuation in all probability of the mass noticed above.

Balcarres Coal-field ranges westward from the Craig, dipping partly under it, as well as the Kilbrachmont ridge on the north. It consists of four seams, two of which are splint, the one 6, and the other 2 feet thick. The third seam, which is 3 feet thick, consists of common coal. The fourth is called "marl-coal," from the circumstance of its being split up, or separated into two seams by an interposed bed of that substance. A trap dike of 60 yards thick traverses this field from east to west, doing considerable injury to the minerals. The dip varies from  $11^{\circ}$  to an angle of  $20^{\circ}$ . Reres coal is nearly in the same line of elevation with that of Balcarres; and has been compressed into a trough-like form, stretching to about 800 yards across the edges of outcrop. This curious figure into which the strata have been thrown, terminating in a semicircular end, has unquestionably been occasioned by the action of the trap rocks, by which it is almost surrounded. It also consists of four seams of coal of variable thickness.

The upper division of the parish presents coal at Lathallan, Largoward, and Falfield. Dunikier-Law, the highest point in this range, is composed of fine grained basalt, arranged in large pentagonal jointed columns, and seems to be the centre from whence the innumerable dikes diverge, which have broken up into so many sectional patches the coal-metals of this interesting and disturbed district. In many places the coals are thrown upon their edges, dip in every direction, and at various degrees of inclination. Along with the varieties mentioned above, a bed of cannel or parrot-coal, of 2 feet thick, occurs in this quarter.\* All the seams are more or less injured in the vicinity of the dikes; and by the shifting and upheaving of the beds, much trouble and expense are occasioned to their respective owners. Is their gratitude to the *bountiful Giver and Architect* of the whole rendered the less? Let them reflect that by these very means, through the agency of these very *faults* and *troubles*, the useful mineral has been lifted from the bowels of the earth, and brought within their reach. Besides, when veins are filled, as is often the case here, with stiff clay, numerous springs are dammed up, and brought to the surface, there-

\* Falfield coal must have been worked for a considerable length of time, as an account is to be seen at Largo House, of so many loads of parrot-coal, driven yearly from Falfield to Falkland, for the use of King James VI. in his own chamber.

by facilitating greatly the process of working ; while, by means of the dikes of injected matter which throw down the strata, valuable beds of coal are preserved within the field, which would otherwise have cropped out, and been lost altogether. “ O Lord, how manifold are thy works ! in wisdom hast thou made them all : the earth is full of thy riches ! ”

*Limestone* is not so abundant in the parish as might be expected from the geological character of the district, and what is found by no means bears the highest reputation. It occurs at Kilconquhar, where it has been worked for some years past, and also at Balcarres, and other places. At Kilconquhar, the rock is of a bluish-grey colour, compact or rather somewhat crystalline in structure, and contains abundance of encrinites and minute shells. In the upper district, few organic remains occur in any of the beds, which are all highly indurated, as well as much bleached in colour, occasioned probably by the expulsion of the bituminous matter through the agency of the igneous rocks.

Travelled blocks or boulders occur along the sea shore, and still more abundantly in the higher districts. These consist chiefly of primitive greenstone, mica slate, and granite. Whatever may have been the cause of their transportation, whether we are to consider them as the result of the Noachian deluge, or regard them, with others, as produced and carried along by the bursting of lakes, in either case the agency must have been prodigious, as none of them are to be found *in situ* nearer than the Grampian mountains. The waters, too, which bore them along, must have swept over all our loftiest hills, or their elevation must have taken place subsequently to that event.

*Botany*.—The following plants are to be met with along the sea beach, some of them adhering to the rocks under Kincaig Hill. *Rumex maritimus*, *Artemisia maritima*, *Eryngium maritimum*, *Smyrnum olusatrum*, *Arenaria marina*, *Orobanche rubra*, *Cochlearia officinalis* and *Danica*, *Arabis hispida*, *Sinapistenuifolia*, *Geranium sanguineum*, *Lavatera arborea*, *Eupatorium cannabinum*, *Hordeum maritimum*, *Glaux maritima*, *Senecio aquaticus*, &c.

Kilconquhar loch affords a great variety of aquatic plants, a few of which only can be specified. *Carex* several species ; *Sparganium ramosum* and *natans*, *Arundo phragmites*, *Juncus effusus* and *bulbosus*, *Scirpus fluitans*, *lacustris*, and *sylvaticus*, *Nuphar lutea*, *Cicuta virosa*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Lythrum salicaria*.



Balcarres Den, so interesting in a geological point of view, is no less to be admired for the many beautiful specimens which it yields to the researches of the botanist. *Silene inflata* and *acaulis*, *Stellaria nemorum* and *holostea*, *Epilobium hirsutum* and *tetragonum*, *Geum rivale*, *Lysimachia nemorum*, *Azalea procumbens*, *Scrophularia nodosa* and *vernalis*, *Digitalis purpurea*, *Sium latifolium*, *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*, *Oxalis acetosella*, &c. Also a considerable variety of the fern tribe occurs here:—*Aspidium filix mas*, *Pteris aquilina*, *Blechnum boreale*, *Botrychium lunaria*, *Aspidium lonchitis*, *Adiantum capillis veneris*. Towards the higher and more sterile parts of the parish, we meet with the usual plants which characterize such districts. *Campanula latifolia*, *Prunella vulgaris*, *Jasione montana*, *Euphrasia officinalis*, *Pedicularis palustris*, *Bartisia Odontites*, *Vaccinium vitis idæa*, *Erica cinerea*, *Eriophorum angustifolium*, *Briza media*, &c.

*Woods or Plantations.*—There are no natural woods in this parish, but few parishes in Scotland are so richly covered with plantations. Most of the proprietors have their residences in the parish, and round their mansions are extensive plantations tastefully laid out. Looking down from Reres on the inclined plain to the south, it appears like one richly wooded domain. The plantations of Balcarres, Charleton, Pitcorthie, Cairnie, Kilconquhar, and Elie, all seem to unite. Looking to the north from the same eminence, the woods around Lathallan and Gilston, with the thriving plantations of Kilbrachmont and Falfield, give to that high district also a clothed and sheltered appearance. There are nearly 1000 imperial acres including hedge-rows under wood in the parish. The most valuable wood is around Balcarres, many of the trees being nearly 200 years old, and of large size. In Balcarres Den are nearly 100 acres of valuable hard wood, planted about eighty years ago. The trees are of great height, but, from being planted in a deep ravine, are little observed. The kinds of trees that seem to agree best with the soil and climate are ash, elm, oak, beech, and plane-tree. Larch, except in sheltered situations, does not thrive here. The genuine red pine or Scotch fir, which formerly used to be planted, and was a valuable wood, seems now to be supplanted by a soft yellow pine, having much the same appearance, but of such inferior quality as to be fit for little else than fire-wood.

*Zoology.*—There is nothing remarkable in the zoology. From our having so much wood we have great quantities of birds of all

the kinds common to the country, also a great deal of game, consisting of pheasants, partridges, hares, &c. Roe deer are sometimes seen in the plantations in the higher part of the parish, and there are great quantities of rabbits. There used to be two rabbit-warrens, one in the St Ford Links, and one in the Grange or Earlsferry Links, but, from the skins having fallen so much in price, the rabbits have been destroyed, and the greater part of the links have been ploughed. \*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—There are no printed nor manuscript historical accounts of this parish, so far as known to the writer, except the parochial registers, which commence in 1631, and have been regularly kept ever since.

This parish originally comprehended the whole of the parish of Elie, and the barony of St Monance. Sir William Scott of Ardross, who was proprietor of all the lands now constituting the parish of Elie, got them erected into a separate parish in 1639, he becoming bound to furnish a church for the new parish, with a manse and glebe for the minister; and expressly stipulating, that the stipend then allocated on his lands, and payable to the minister of Kilconquhar, should continue to be so paid in all time coming.

The late incumbent of the parish of Elie made an attempt to get the whole of the teinds, and raised a process before the Court of Session to get this agreement set aside. The heritors of Kilconquhar appeared as defenders, and after some litigation the process was dropped.

The present parish church of St Monance was a chapel in this parish previously to the annexation of that barony to the parish of Abercrombie in 1646.

*Burgh of Earlsferry.*—This burgh is very ancient. The original charter was destroyed by fire in Edinburgh, and its date is not ascertained. A new charter was granted by James VI. in 1589, which commences in these words: “James, by the grace of God King of the Scots, to all honest, good, and virtuous men of this land, aither cleriks or laicks, greeting, Wit ye because we understanding the burgh of Earlsferry *of old, past memory of men*, was erected into ane free burgh, with all privileges, liberties, freedoms, and immunities,” &c. By this charter all its privileges

\* Rookeries are encouraged here to a very hurtful extent. Crows are allowed to multiply so much as to prevent almost entirely the sowing of spring wheat, which would otherwise be cultivated to a considerable extent, our light soil being well adapted for it. Wherever it is now sown, it is devoured by crows alighting in thousands upon it, and tearing up the seed just when it begins to point through the ground in spring.



were renewed and confirmed. The origin of this burgh is ascribed to Macduff Thane of Fife, who, when fleeing from the usurper Macbeth, was obliged to take shelter in the cave already mentioned in Kinraig-ness, where, remaining in concealment for a time, he received great kindness from the fishermen of this village, who afterwards ferried him across the Frith to Dunbar. In return for these kind attentions, Macduff is said to have got Malcolm III. betwixt 1057 and 1093, to erect the village into a royal burgh, calling it Earlsferry, with the privilege, that the persons of all who should cross the Frith from this place should be inviolable, or safe from their pursuers, and that no boat should be allowed to sail in pursuit of them till they were half way across. A considerable trade seems at one time to have been carried on here. By the charter, the provost and bailies are authorized to hold two annual fairs and two weekly markets, and to levy dues and customs. The want of a proper harbour, however, must always have been a great drawback to the trade of this place. Since the erection of a pier, and the formation of a harbour at Elie, which is just adjoining Earlsferry, the trade has naturally been transferred to that port, and these weekly markets and annual fairs have long been discontinued. The burghs of Earlsferry, Falkland, Newburgh, and Auchtermuchty, some time prior to the Union, were relieved from the burden, as it was then esteemed, of sending commissioners, whom they were obliged to pay, to represent them in Parliament. Being thus by their own desire disfranchised as burghs, they are now, with the other villages in Fife, thrown into the county constituency.

The minister of this parish had his manse and glebe at Earlsferry, and resided there till 1717, when land was allotted for a glebe at Kilconquhar, and a manse built upon it. The proprietor of the estate of Elie gave the glebe at Kilconquhar in exchange for that at Earlsferry, which he bequeathed to the kirk-session of Elie, for behoof of the poor of that parish. The circumstance of the minister residing at Earlsferry, may account for the inscription of Macduff's Cross being engrossed on the title-page of the first volume of our parochial register. \*

*Mansion Houses.*—There are six family residences in the parish, viz. Balcarres, Kilconquhar House, Charleton, Lathallan, Falfield and Cairnie.

\* See this inscription, with an account of it, in a note, page 70, in the Statistical Account of Newburgh, by the able and learned minister of that parish.

*Valued Rents.*—The valued rent of the different properties in the parish is as follows :

Kilconquhar, Sir Henry Lindesay Bethune, Bart.	-	L. 2623	14	8	Scots.
Balcarres, Colonel James Lindsay,	-	2144	19	4	
St Ford, Sir Wyndham Carmichael Anstruther, Bart.	-	1146	6	4	
Reres, Robert Bayne Dalgliesh, Esq.	-	827	0	0	
Kincraig, Miss Gourlay,	-	534	18	10	
Lathallan, James Lumsdaine, Esq.	-	463	6	8	
Charleton, John Anstruther Thomson, Esq.	-	408	11	11	
Grange, Sir John Malcom, Bart.	-	319	6	8	
North Falfield, Bethune James Walker, Esq.	-	291	10	0	
Grangehill, Alexander Wood, Esq.	-	280	14	10	
Bruntsields, Heirs of Misses Herd,	-	218	10	0	
South Falfield, James Wyld, Esq.	-	174	0	0	
Cairnie, Melville Dalyell, Esq.	-	102	19	1	

Amount of valued rent, - L. 9546 8 4

The real rent of the parish is about L. 9000 per annum.

None of the heritors have so low an income as L. 50 per annum.

The only noble family connected with the parish is that of Balcarres.

The Earl of Balcarres is patron of the parish, and titular of the teinds.

*Family of Lindesay.*—The first authentic mention of the family of Lindesay is in the time of David I. in 1188, when two brothers, Walter and William de Lindesay, stood high in this King's favour.

The house of Lamberton sprang from Walter de Lindesay, and is now extinct in the male line. The last lineal descendant in the female line is the Duchesse d'Angouleme. The house of Crawford sprang from William. His descendants distinguished themselves in Scottish history, and one of them was created Earl of Crawford in 1398.

The family of Balcarres branched off from that of Crawford in 1558, in the person of John, second son of David, eighth Earl of Crawford, Knight of Edzell. This John settled at Balcarres, which, with several other estates, were erected into a barony in 1592. He was one of the Octavians or secret council of eight, in whom the control of the Exchequer, and administration of public affairs, was vested after the death of Chancellor Maitland. His son David was created first Lord Balcarres, and his grandson Alexander first Earl. Alexander took an active part in favour of the exiled monarch, and died at Breda in exile in 1660, immediately before the restoration of Charles II. His body was brought home and interred in the chapel at Balcarres. This chapel was built by David first Lord Balcarres, who was interred here, as also Alexander, already mentioned, Charles, Colin, Alexander, and James, all Earls of Balcarres, and the Honourable Robert Lind-



say, (second son of Earl James), to whose family the estate now belongs. The present proprietor is Colonel James Lindsay, late representative in Parliament of the county of Fife.

The Earl of Balcarres is now a British peer, and resides on his estates in England.

Sir Henry Lindesay Bethune, the proprietor of the estate of Kilconquhar, is also sprung from the noble family of Crawford, and represents the Lindesays of Pyatstone. Sir Henry was lately created a Baronet for his distinguished services in Persia, where, by his singular energy and ability as a soldier, he mainly contributed to place the present Schah on the throne. Sir Henry is now at the court of Persia, and holds a high command in the Persian army.

The family of Gourlay, proprietors of Kincraig, have possessed this property upwards of 500 years.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1753 the population was 2131

1794,	-	-	2013
1814,	-	-	2312
1821,	-	-	2317
1831,	-	-	2540 exclusive of 70 seamen.
1834,	-	-	2749
1836,	-	-	2732

Three villages contain nearly two-thirds of the population.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Earlsferry,	309	340	649
Kilconquhar and Barnyards,	256	302	558
Colinsburgh,	239	322	561
Country population,	456	508	964
	1260	1472	2732
Excess of females,	-	212	

The females exceed the males nearly 8 per cent., but the males bear a much nearer proportion to the females in the rural districts of the parish than in the villages. In the former, the females exceed the males only 6 per cent., in the latter 11 per cent. This may be accounted for, by single women finding cheaper houses and more employment in the villages than in the country.

The following is the state of births and marriages for last seven years :

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Births.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Marriages.</i>
1829,	68	36	32	17
1830,	58	27	31	15
1831,	53	29	24	16
1832,	66	31	35	28
1833,	68	32	36	22
1834,	79	39	40	16
1835,	54	29	25	22
Total,	446	223	223	136
Average,	63½	31½	31½	19½

It is rather remarkable that the births of males and females, though different in different years, are precisely the same in seven years. There is nearly one birth to 43 persons, and one marriage to 140, or more properly 70, and  $3\frac{1}{4}$  births to each marriage.

The following table will shew the numbers and ages of the persons who have died during the last seven years :

<i>Years.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Average age.</i>
1829,	18	22	40	32
1830,	21	19	40	50
1831,	19	24	43	48
1832,	14	25	39	47
1833,	23	13	36	38
1834,	28	35	63	34
1835,	20	27	47	38
Total,	143	165	308	287
Average,	20 $\frac{3}{4}$	23 $\frac{3}{4}$	44	41

One person to 62 has died yearly. The average age has been 41. The births have exceeded the deaths 138 in the seven years.

The following table will show more particularly the ages of the persons who have died last seven years.

<i>Under</i>											<i>Above</i>
	10	20	30	40	50	60	70	80	90	100	100
1829,	14	18	19	24	26	29	32	34	38	39	1
1830,	7	12	16	18	18	20	26	31	37	40	
1831,	7	10	13	14	19	22	26	36	43	43	
1832,	7	8	10	12	16	17	21	29	37	39	
1833,	7	12	17	19	22	26	27	29	36	36	
1834,	25	29	30	34	36	38	41	48	63	63	
1835,	6	11	12	16	18	25	36	39	47	47	

The person who died in 1829 above 100 was a female who was born in this parish, and whose name and birth are recorded in our session books. She was one hundred years and four months when she died. She kept an inn or public-house in Colinsburgh for more than seventy years. She was of a placid cheerful disposition, was temperate, but said that she had never been particular as to what she ate or drank.

Persons under 15 years,	981
above 15 and below 50,	1265
above 50 and below 70,	357
above 70,	129
Bachelors above 50,	27
Widowers above 50,	31
Unmarried females above 45,	68
Widows,	99
Insane persons,	4
Fatuous,	4
Deaf and dumb,	2
Blind,	1

There are 655 families, counting each separate lodging a family, which make  $4\frac{1}{8}$  for each family. Many single persons, however,



occupy separate lodgings, so that families, properly so styled, must be considerably larger.

The language spoken here, especially by the young, is better than in most parts of Scotland. This is owing chiefly to our having good schools, and the youth being in general better educated.

There is nothing particular in the appearance, the manners, or customs of the people. They enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are generally contented with their condition and circumstances. It may be mentioned as a proof of the regularity of their conduct, that during the last twenty-three years, which is the period that the present incumbent has resided amongst them, there has not been an instance of a person belonging to this parish having been brought to a justiciary trial.

The comfort in which the inhabitants live may appear from the circumstance of our bakers using annually about 1000 quarters of wheat in bread; and our butchers killing and selling weekly upon an average 12 animals, including bullocks, sheep, lambs, veal, &c. Besides which, about 600 pigs are yearly fed and used by cottagers and others. Several families, too, in the higher ranks, use their own mutton, lambs, &c.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture*, according to the most improved system, is practised here; and in few parts of Scotland does the same extent of land produce so much corn, and other varieties of food. The whole parish except a few rocky spots, and what is covered with wood and roads, and about 200 acres of links, is either under tillage, or laid down for pasture in an improved state, after being enclosed and drained.

The system of cropping generally followed in the lower part of the parish is a rotation of four years, consisting of two green and two white crops, viz. first year grass; second, oats; third, potatoes, beans, or turnips; fourth, wheat or barley with grass seeds; wheat being commonly sown after potatoes, and barley after turnips. Where the green crop has been potatoes in the one rotation, it is generally turnips in the other, so that potatoes and turnips, wheat and barley, seldom occur more than twice or thrice on the same fields during the currency of a nineteen years lease.

In the upper part of the parish, much of the land is laid down in grass for pasture, and when ploughed, a less regular rotation is followed. Little wheat is sown. Two crops of oats are frequently taken after grass; and barley is generally sown after potatoes and turnips.

There are 28 farms of above L. 50 yearly rent; 84 ploughs, all drawn by horses, no oxen being employed in husbandry here. Each plough has two horses, and each farm a spare horse, making about 200 horses employed in cultivating the soil. All the farmers are in the practice of rearing young horses. These may be stated at one annually for every three working horses upon the farm; and as they are not generally sold till they are three or four years old, they may be reckoned about equal in number to the others, making about 400; besides which there are about 30 carriage and riding horses, making in all about 430 horses in the parish.

About 250 cattle are annually fed upon turnips, and about an equal number on grass, so as to be fit for the butcher. A considerable part of these are bought by dealers from a distance, who drive them to the Glasgow or Dundee markets. Young cattle and milk cows may be about double that number, making about 1500 cattle, young and old, in the parish. The kind of cattle bred here is the Fife, with a mixture of Teeswater in some instances. Considerable attention is paid to the breeding of cattle. The east of Fife Agricultural Society hold their meetings in Colinsburgh, and give premiums to encourage breeders. Few sheep are kept except in parks round gentlemen's houses. Cheviot sheep are those most generally kept.

*Produce.*—The average amount of raw produce may be stated as under:

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Quarters per acre.</i>	<i>Price per quarter.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Wheat,	350	4½	L. 2 10 0	L. 3935 0 0
Barley,	300	4½	1 10 0	2025 0 0
Oats,	700	5½	1 2 0	4235 0 0
Beans,	150	3½	1 10 0	787 0 0
Potatoes,	300	5 tons per acre, at L. 1, 10s. per ton,		2250 0 0
Turnips,	300	at L. 7 per acre,		2100 0 0
Hay,	250	at L. 10 per acre,		2500 0 0
Flax,	50	at L. 10 per acre,		500 0 0
Pasture,	2000	at L. 1, 15s. per acre,		3500 0 0
Thinnings of wood,				300 0 0
Cattle, supposing 500 annually sold at L. 10 each, = L. 5000. Allow-				
ing the farmer 20 per cent. of profit after deducting grass, turnips, &c.				1000 0 0
Horses, suppose 50 annually sold at L. 20 each, and allowing the far-				
mer 20 per cent. profit,				500 0 0
Coal and lime,				6000 0 0
Miscellaneous produce, including pigs, sheep, butter, cheese, &c.				1000 0 0

Total yearly value of raw produce, L. 30,632 0 0

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land is L. 2 per acre. Leases are generally for nineteen years.

*Rate of Wages.*—Farm-servants are generally hired by the year. Married men get each a house, and wages paid partly in kind and partly in money, amounting to L. 22 or L. 24. Unmarried men



get from L. 10 to L. 12 with victuals. Women servants get L. 6 or L. 7 per annum and board. Labourers,—men have 1s. 6d. per day; women 8d. per day at ordinary work, and 1s. 6d. in harvest. Masons and carpenters get from 2s. to 3s. per day.

*Farm Buildings.*—Farm houses and offices are generally abundantly commodious, and kept in good condition.

*Fences.*—In the lower part of the parish, where the soil is rich and constantly under crop, there are few enclosures; they are considered to be hurtful by harbouring birds, and by occupying land which would otherwise be made productive. In the upper part, where the land is more frequently pastured, it is generally enclosed with stone dikes, which are kept in good repair.

*Manufactures.*—There are no spinning mills nor public manufactures in this parish; 235 persons are employed in weaving, 120 males, and 115 females. The webs are generally got from Kirkaldy, Kirkland, or Dundee, ready for the loom. Manufacturers in each of these places have agents here, for giving out, and taking in the work. The kinds of cloth worked here are doulasses, checks, and sheetings. About fifteen young men in Earlsferry are employed in weaving sheetings from 3 to 4 yards broad, at which they can earn from 3s. to 4s. a day.

The average earnings of all the weavers, male and female, in the parish may be about 8s. per week, or L. 4888 per annum. A great proportion of the men employed in weaving have also been bred to the sea. From thirty to forty used annually to go to the whale-fishing in summer, and return to the loom in winter. From that fishery having been so unsuccessful of late years, few now go to it. About twenty or thirty now go in the months of July and August to the herring fishing on the north-east coast of Scotland.

All the manufacturing part of the population reside in the villages. There is not a weaver in the whole of the landward part of the parish.

*Tan and Currying-works.*—There is a tan-work in Kilconquhar, and a currying-work in Colinsburgh, carried on by the same company, in which leather is manufactured to the value of L. 14,000 or L. 15,000 per annum. From twenty to twenty-four men are employed in these works, to whom about L. 15 are paid weekly in wages.

• The following list will give a view of the professions and occupations of part of the inhabitants who have not been mentioned: 1 surgeon; 1 writer; 3 cloth-merchants; 13 grocers; 12 gardeners; 9 bakers; 3 butchers; 16 tailors; 29 shoemakers; 20 wrights; 18 masons; 13 blacksmiths; 1 tinsmith; 2 saddlers; 3 coopers; 2 slaters; 1 stationer; 1 house painter; 22 sailors; 12 public-houses; 90 persons employed at coal works.

## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Colinsburgh is a post-town, in which there is a weekly market for grain, attended by farmers and corn-dealers in the neighbourhood. The corn is sold by sample, and is chiefly bought for exportation to Edinburgh, Glasgow, &c. Besides the weekly markets, there are two fairs annually for cattle in Colinsburgh, one in June and one in October. When the Agricultural Society meet in March to award their premiums, there is also a public market at which many cattle are sold.

*Bank.*—The Commercial Bank of Scotland have an agency here, which does a good deal of business. A Justice of Peace Court is also regularly held here.

*Means of Communication.*—Two stage coaches pass daily through the parish, one from Anstruther to Edinburgh by Pettycur, another from Anstruther to join the Largo steamer, which carries passengers to Edinburgh twice a-day in summer, and once a-day in winter.

Excellent turnpike roads run in all directions through the parish. The great road from the east to the west of Fife along the south coast, passes through it. Colinsburgh is a regular stage on this road. Here there is a good inn, with post-chaises and horses. There is also another line of turnpike road that runs from south to north, and which, in the northern parts of the parish, branches off in various directions leading to St Andrews, Cupar, Dundee, &c. Carriers from this go weekly to Edinburgh, Kirkaldy, St Andrews, Cupar, and all the towns on the coast.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, which stands in the village of Kilconquhar, was built in 1820 and 1821. The plan was furnished and the building erected by Messrs Dickson, architects, Edinburgh. It is a handsome building in the Gothic style of architecture, with a tower 80 feet in height. The church is conveniently situated for four-fifths of the population, but extremely inconveniently for the inhabitants of the northern part of the parish, the extremity of which is at least seven miles distant. The church contains sittings for 1035; 50 sittings are allotted to the poor.

The inconvenient situation of the church for the inhabitants of the northern parts of the parish has led to the erection of a chapel at Largoward, which was opened for public worship in September 1835, and which, since that time, has been regularly supplied, by the presbytery furnishing supply the one Sabbath, and the minister of the parish providing it the other. A subscription has been made



for supporting a preacher, who may reside in the district, and officiate regularly in the chapel. This chapel is on the confines of two other parishes, Carnbee, and Cameron ; and within two miles of it is a population of upwards of 800, who are, some of them, seven, and all of them more than two miles, from their own parish churches. This is a locality where a new parish ought to be erected, and to which the attention of the Royal Commissioners is now solicited.

The manse and offices were built in 1815, and are in good condition. The glebe contains 12 acres, including the space occupied by the manse, offices, garden, &c. The land is good, and may be worth L. 30 or L. 35 per annum. The stipend is 17 chalders, one-half meal, and one-half barley, with L. 10 for communion elements.

The number of persons belonging to the Established Church is 2300. Divine service, both in the church and chapel, is well attended. The number of communicants belonging to the Established Church is 1110; the number generally present at the time of the communion about 1000.

*Dissenters.*—There are four dissenting meeting-houses in the parish, besides a small Baptist meeting. There is also a meeting house in Cameron parish, just on the borders of this, which has as great an attendance of the inhabitants of this parish, and is as conveniently situated for them, as any of the others. These meeting-houses contain as many sittings as would accommodate every man, woman, and child in the parish, allowing 18 inches to each. They contain upwards of 2700 sittings. Not 200 of these are let to, or occupied by, persons belonging to the parish. The number of dissenters in the parish, young and old, of all denominations, is 361. The meeting-houses in the parish belong, two to the Relief, one to the United Associate Synod, and one to the Independents. The one in Cameron belongs to the United Associate Synod. One of the Relief meeting-houses in Colinsburgh, and the United Associate meeting-house in Kilconquhar, were some years ago sold for debt ; but by some arrangement they are still kept up as places of worship, and have ministers. The other Relief meeting-house in Colinsburgh is now falling into ruins, and is almost deserted. The Independent meeting-house, although actually situated in this parish, which runs close to the village of Elie, was built, and is supported, so far as it has support, chiefly by persons in Elie. A very small number attend it. What stipends these ministers receive is not known. They must be very small.

There are 3 families of Episcopalians in the parish, and 51 persons belonging to no religious communion, although some of them occasionally attend the Established Church.

We have a society for church purposes, composed of members of the Established Church, which distributes annually about L. 30 for the support and extension of the gospel.

*Education.*—There are six schools in the parish. The parochial schoolmaster in Kilconquhar has a salary of L. 34, 2s. 4d. being the maximum. The heritors also allow a salary of 100 merks for a school at Largoward, where the chapel is built. The other four schools have no salary. There is also a female school at Kilconquhar. The number of scholars attending all the schools is about 450, or a sixth part of the population.

The branches taught in the parish school are English, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, French, book-keeping, geography, algebra, Euclid's Elements, trigonometry, mensuration, navigation. The number of scholars studying Latin in this school for the last two years has been 28, in 1834 the number was 33. This school is remarkably well taught, and the teacher Mr M'Laurin, having a commodious house, has 16 boarders from different parts of the country. An usher is kept to assist in teaching this school. In the other schools the more ordinary branches only are taught. The people in general are alive to the benefits of education. All the children are within easy reach of some of the schools, and are taught to read and write.

*Friendly Societies.*—There were several friendly societies in the parish, but, from miscalculation of the allowances to be made to their sick and poor members, they have all been broken up.

*Savings Bank.*—We have a savings bank, but, from there being now a branch of the Commercial Bank in Colinsburgh, few comparatively speaking take advantage of it.

*Poor.*—The average number on the regular poor's list for the last ten years has been 36. About two-thirds of these either are Dissenters, or have been Dissenters. These proportions have been nearly the same for the last twenty years. The Dissenters here do not provide for their poor, nor do they contribute any thing to the poor's funds of the parish. If they give any thing to the poor, it is unknown to the kirk-session, and must be confined to those of their own communion. They give nothing to any of the poor of the Establishment.

The following table will show the amount and application of disbursements for the poor, for the last seven years:—



	<i>Paid Ordinary Poor.</i>			<i>Occasional Poor.</i>			<i>Lunatics.</i>			<i>House Rents.</i>			<i>Total.</i>		
	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.	L.	s.	d.
1829,	74	14	0	6	18	6	20	4	0	16	19	0	119	15	6
1830,	84	10	5½	18	19	1½	29	19	10	12	7	0	145	16	4¾
1831,	81	1	11	17	4	0	20	19	9	12	5	0	131	10	8
1832,	83	18	3	17	6	6	27	19	9	14	7	0	143	11	6
1833,	75	8	4	29	12	3½	34	6	7	14	12	8	154	0	2½
1834,	93	1	7½	29	18	4½	42	3	8½	14	11	0	179	14	8
1835,	92	1	2½	7	18	0	38	5	10	14	5	0	152	10	0½
Average	83	10	9¼	18	5	3	30	2	9¼	14	3	8¼	146	14	1

The average amount of collections for the poor at the church door, for the last seven years, has annually been L. 66, 1s. 4d. The interest of money belonging to the kirk-session L. 38; proclamation dues, L. 2, 4s. 3d; mortcloth do. L. 3, 11s. 9d., making in all L. 109, 17s. 4d. The remaining sum has been raised by a voluntary contribution from the heritors according to their valued rents.

*Prisons.*—There is a jail in Earlsferry in a very wretched state, but fortunately we rarely have occasion to use it.

#### OBSERVATIONS.

*Local Advantages.*—This parish has many local advantages. Being near the sea, we are abundantly supplied with all the varieties of fish caught on the coast. We have a plentiful supply of coals, which are sold at the mouth of the pit, at 5s. per single horse cart-load. We have a much greater quantity of all kinds of agricultural produce than can be used in the parish.

*Improvements.*—Since the date of the former Statistical Account, great improvements have been made in agriculture, particularly in draining and turnip husbandry. Buildings of every description are greatly improved, especially farm-houses, which, from being generally small and covered with thatch or tile, are now large and commodious, and finished in a style that would have been thought extravagant forty years ago. Thrashing-mills are now universal, wherever the farms are of any considerable extent. There are 23 thrashing mills in the parish, which are still driven by horses.

A new era is commencing for the lessening of labour, by the introduction of steam engines. There are as yet only six steam engines in the parish, and only one of these is applied to a thrashing mill, namely, at the farm of Balniel Den, the property of Colonel Lindsay. It may safely be predicted, that, before another half century elapses, it will be as uncommon to see a thrashing mill driven by horses, as it now is to see corn thrashed with flails.

The number of persons qualified to vote for a Member of Parliament is 70.

January 1837.

PARISH OF  
ABERCROMBIE OR ST MONAN'S.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ROBERT SWAN, MINISTER.

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I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

FROM authentic documents referred to by Sir John Connell in his History of Tithes, Abercrombie or Abercrumbin appears to have been a parish so far back as 1174.

*Ancient and modern name of the parish.*—From that time (and it cannot be ascertained how long before) till 1646, the original name was uniformly and exclusively given to it. Towards the close of that year, an addition which it then received, *quoad sacra*, induced upon it a twofold and less determinate designation. The addition alluded to was the barony of St. Monan's,\* the property

\* There were several concurring circumstances which recommended and facilitated this annexation. The parish church of Abercrombie, of great but unknown antiquity, had become so ruinous as to be totally unfit for a place of worship. In the barony of St. Monan's, there stood invitingly the unoccupied chapel which went by the same name, greatly dilapidated in some of its compartments; yet with so much of it entire, and under cover, as to make it serviceable (if such an arrangement could be effected) as a parish church for the people of Abercrombie, being nearer to the bulk of the inhabitants than their original place of worship, while it was also much nearer than their own parish church, to such inhabitants of Kilconquhar, as were situated in the south-eastern parts of the parish, and adjoining to Abercrombie. In these circumstances, the idea appears to have been taken up by Sir James Sandilands of St. Monans, and cordially entered into by the Presbytery, of having his barony, with its ready made church, disjoined from the parish of Kilconquhar, and annexed to that of Abercrombie, in which there was now no church that could accommodate the parishioners. The other great heritor, my Lord Abercrombie, also a Sandilands and near relation of Sir James, saw this to be a desirable arrangement. It removed no doubt his usual place of worship to a considerably greater distance than before; but it was obtaining a substantial edifice for that purpose, and abandoning one inconveniently situated for the parish at large, and hastening to ruin.

It was expressly stipulated by the competent parties, that the arrangement (briefly referred to,) should be without prejudice to the minister of Kilconquhar, who was to draw as hitherto the teinds of St. Monan's barony; and the minister of Abercrombie was, in consequence of a contract betwixt Sir James Sandilands and him, to receive 200 merks yearly, for that addition to his parochial duties, which the foresaid annexation implied.

In reference to this transaction, there is the following entry in the Presbytery-book, date 21st June 1646. "A letter appointed to be written to the Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks, earnestly recommending the uniting of Abercrombie and St. Mo-



of Sir James Sandilands, in the immediately adjoining parish of Kilconquhar.

For some time after the annexation, the parish was designed in the Presbytery records, "Abercrombie with St Monance." In the course of years, Abercrombie was gradually dropped, and St Monan's came to be the sole designation.

Soon after the induction of the present incumbent, May 1804, Abercrombie, agreeably to the wish of the principal heritor, was revived as the proper name of the parish, and applied to it in all public documents.

The village of St Monan's takes its name from a hermit or religious recluse, belonging to a neighbouring monastery (Pittenweem,) who, in the sixth century, when eremite devotion was more prevalent than now, is said to have had his abode here. The precise spot pointed out as his habitation, is now sheltered by the tiles and gray eaves of a byre, situated in a snug recess amongst the banks, walls, and ruinous tenements at the west end of the village, with a dusky-coloured mass of rock (hard whinstone) overhanging it behind, and a stair or gulley winding past it in front. This parish is situated upon the northern shore of the Frith of Forth, nearly opposite to North Berwick Law, and about midway betwixt Fifeness and Leven-water, from each of which it is about ten miles distant.

*Boundaries and Figure.*—It is bounded by the parishes of Elie and Kilconquhar on the west, that of Carnbee on the north, and north-east, of Pittenweem on the east, and by the Forth on the south. The parish forms nearly a parallelogram; its breadth from east to west an English mile, its length from south to north a mile and a-half.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There is a very abrupt ascent from the low and rocky beach, consisting of sandstone and limestone, to the arable part of the parish. This arable land, in about a quarter of a mile, declines to the north; it afterwards reascends gently, till it reaches its highest elevation at the farm-house and steading of Abercrombie.

From this point the ground falls in all directions, stretching

nance in a parish, and Sir James Sandilands desired to secure what he conditions to that purpose." After various other steps of procedure, the business was closed, 21st of October 1646, and accordingly, 20th December that year, it was duly intimated, that the next day, and in all time coming, the place of meeting for service shall be at the kirk of St Monan's, because, &c. &c.

north-west, almost in a dead level, to the extremity of the parish. There are, however, undulations of the surface which give beauty and variety to the landscape, now greatly improved by the thriving and well disposed plantations of Sir Ralph A. Anstruther.

The climate is mild and salubrious. In winter and early spring there are occasionally violent gales from the south-east, of several days continuance. The effect of these is the detaching and bringing ashore an immense quantity of sea-weed, which the farmers on Sir Wyndham Anstruther's estates secure with great alacrity, as making excellent manure.

*Hydrography.*—In striking contrast to our southern boundary, the majestic Forth, we have, as our boundary on the west and north-west, the small stream anciently called Inweary, rising in adjacent marshes in Kilconquhar parish, and, after a course of two miles, falling into the Forth close by the old church of St Monan's.

On the north-east we have the burn of Dreel, arising in the heights of Baldutho, and after a course of five or six miles, with Carnbee and West Anstruther parishes on the left bank, and Abercrombie and Pittenweem on the right, falling into the Forth at West Anstruther.

There are several perennial springs in the parish, the water excellent, and well adapted for all domestic purposes. The mining connected with the coal is said to have drained some of the principal wells. There is a spring within high-water-mark, and supposed to be of a ferruginous quality.

*Geology.*—The position of the rocks along the sea shore is much diversified, and their stratification very varied. The geological history and character, or probable origin of the rocks, in their various dips and bearings, the present incumbent does not pretend to give in scientific phrase. But if there be a feature especially prominent in the rocks, which bristle upon our formidable shore, it is, that, consisting of sandstone, limestone, and till, they run out from the land in parallel ridges, of different elevations.

The direction of these ridges is from N. E. to S. W., and their dip to the S. E. in various angles to the horizon.

A wider opening than occurs in general betwixt these ridges, (about 200 feet) presents an obvious and natural harbour, opposite to the middle of the village. The sides of this inlet, instead of dipping like consecutive ridges in one direction, expand and mutually fall back, forming a spacious entrance, of which due



advantage has been taken in forming the harbour, afterwards noticed.

*Coal.*—There are said to be six seams of coal in the barony of St Monan's, splent and cherry. Those seams range in thickness from 18 inches to 7 feet. In former times the coal here was wrought to the depth of ten fathoms; but it had been given up for twenty-five years, when it was resumed, about nine years ago, the shafts' being driven to the depth of 27 fathoms. For eighteen months, the working of the coal has been wholly abandoned, owing to the tacksman not having capital to meet the requisite outlay, and the engine not having been judiciously placed. Wrought in an effective manner, it might have afforded employment for one hundred persons. The number actually employed is said not to have exceeded thirty. It is believed that a person or company of capital and enterprise, might make the coal here a very profitable concern.

There are understood to be several seams of coal in the lands of Abercrombie.

*Limestone.*—There is abundance of limestone in the immediate vicinity of the village, and held to be of excellent quality. So rapidly, however, is it found to dip to the south-east, and so deep is the tiring required, that the working of the limestone has not been found to pay. It was also much against the burning and sale of the lime, that the working of the coal came to be finally abandoned.

The limestone rock, or dike, as it is technically termed, goes very deep, and is understood to be continued under and across the village, till it reappear, with very prominent features, running like the other ridges on each side of it, on to the sea.

*Ironstone.*—Ironstone is found in considerable quantities upon the beach. There are regular bands or bars of ironstone imbedded in the till; but it is chiefly found in the form of small stones, of one or two pounds weight. The proportion of iron to the whole of the ironstone is from 18 to 12 cwt. in the ton. The tacksman of the ironstone receives for it, when shipmasters take it as ballast, 9s. per 24 cwt.

*Soils.*—The nature of the soil is well described by the late incumbent. It is a light loam, and friable, with very little clay, all quite free of stones, and very fertile and manageable. It is peculiarly well adapted for green crops, but yields all the usual crops in abundance.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Ancient or Modern Accounts.*—The most ancient original document connected with the parish that I have seen, is a charter granted to the feuars of St Monan's by Sir William Sandilands, of date 1622. One of the most important clauses in this instrument, is that by which the "said bailies, council, feuars, and inhabitants of our said town of St Monance, their heirs and successors, shall be holden and restricted to repair, beet and uphold the kirk and kirk-yard dikes of St Monance, in timber, slate, lime, and glass, sufficiently, as effeirs, in all time coming." This clause, as we shall see, was not lost sight of by the heritors of future days.

*Occurrences, &c.*—The most memorable occurrences with us are losses by sea, from swamping of boats and other accidents. In the course of the present incumbency, now running thirty-three years, four boats have perished with five valuable lives in each, one with four, and another with three.

These boats' crews are generally composed of near relations, and hence the catastrophe becomes the more afflicting to survivors.

It often falls to the minister to intimate such disasters. Suspicions have probably been already awakened; and his appearing at an unusual hour, confirms the worst fears, and produces the most heart rending lamentations.

It would seem a sanctifying of these severe dispensations, that they awaken and bring into substantial exercise a great deal of good feeling,—not only among the parishioners, but throughout the country at large. Upon occasion of a late signal catastrophe, in which our neighbours at Pittenweem deeply shared, there were upwards of L. 700 subscribed for the families of the sufferers. Gentlemen in the neighbourhood not only gave their money, but their humane and particular attention, to the best disposal of the funds which were raised. Much praise is due on this account to Sir Ralph Anstruther, Colonel Lindsay, Mr Smythe, Mr Nairne, and others.

*Eminent Characters.*—There is one person of note in British history, connected with the parish, if not by birth, by residence and burial, Lieutenant-General David Leslie. He was son of Lord Lindores in Fife, and, according to Sibbald, (History of Fife, Cupar edition, 1803, p. 335,) created Lord Newark by Charles II. The name of Newark had belonged to the residence of Sir James Sandilands, who was also designed of St



Monan's. The property having become David Leslie's by purchase, he was, in 1661, ennobled by the name of this acquisition.

The writer of this account has always understood, that this is the General Leslie who made so distinguished a figure in the unhappy civil wars in the middle of the seventeenth century. He defeated Montrose at Philiphaugh, 13th September 1645, for which acceptable service the Parliament voted him 30,000 marks, and he completely suppressed the civil war in Scotland in 1647. When Cromwell invaded Scotland, 1650, Leslie had the chief command of the Scottish army, in which capacity he sustained a signal defeat. The history of this catastrophe (battle of Dunbar) is well-known. Suffice it to say, that no blame can be imputed to the General. Like Fabius Maximus, he was maintaining a commanding situation, which put Cromwell's army almost entirely in his power; but he allowed himself to be importuned out of his fastness, and precipitated into a battle by the inconsiderate zeal of the Committee of Church and State, and the consequence was, his disastrous overthrow, 3d September 1650. Justice was done to the abilities of the unfortunate general, who was acquitted of misconduct, and restored to the command from which he had been suspended for a time.

There is to be found in Douglas's peerage a high testimony to Leslie's character, under the hand of Charles II. whom some of the General's enemies had endeavoured to prejudice against him, 10th June 1667.

*Chief Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners of the parish are, Sir Ralph Abercromby Anstruther, Bart., of Balcaskie, and Sir Wyndham Carmichael Anstruther, Bart., of Anstruther and Carmichael. Neither of them have their residence in the parish, —Sir Ralph's mansion being situated in the adjoining parish of Carnbee, and Sir Wyndham's in that of Elie. There is not much difference in their respective valuations, Sir Ralph's being L.1486 Scots, and Sir Wyndham's L.1207, 13s. 4d. Scots. Their actual rent roll I have not ascertained, but should suppose it to amount to about L. 2200 a-year.

Mr Mackie has a feu of three acres holding of Sir Wyndham. He pays of stipend 2 quarters, 1 bushel, 2 pecks of barley. Mr Elder has a feu of about 7 acres, holding of Sir Ralph, but pays no stipend.

There is only one other landholder in the parish. He has but a few acres, and there would appear to be no stipend exigible.

*Registers.*—The earliest entry in our parochial registers is 16th April 1597. It is very brief, and not very legible. It appears to record the settling of an account. Matters of discipline are often before the session, and the discipline extends to all manner of delinquencies. The first volume, commencing as just stated, ends in 1638; the second begins 1641, and ends 1660; the third begins 1664, and goes on to 1681. There is then a blank till 2d November 1689, when volume fourth begins with the ordination of Mr Walter Wilson. From that time to the present day, the minutes of session have been kept regularly, and the cash-book carried on along with them occasionally. This has been the case, indeed, from August 1689, to August 27th 1789. From that date the minutes have been kept distinct from cash concerns, there being a current book for each. The first trace that I can perceive of a marriage register is in 1684. There are only three entries of births and baptisms before 1707. From that period there is a more regular register of marriages and baptisms, and also of burials. There is an heritors' book besides those strictly sessional, and all of them during the late and present incumbency of session-clerk have been kept with commendable accuracy.

*Antiquities.*—Our most noted antiquity is the church, which will be afterwards adverted to. As to other antiquities, our report must be almost wholly negative. The old ruinous mansion-house of Newark is an interesting object, but there is nothing peculiar in its structure.

The situation is striking: Standing directly south<sup>d</sup> and north, its southern gable has closely opposed to it a precipitous rock, which rises high above the level of the sea, so that there is no passing betwixt the wall and the precipice. The northern half has a roof in tolerable repair. The ground storey is occupied by dark vaults. The middle and upper storeys afford comfortable dwelling-houses to the servants upon the farm of Newark. They did so at least till of late. In the opposite extremity of the parish, nearly a mile and a-half from the house of Newark, there is still to be seen the old and ruined parish church of Abercrombie, abandoned as a place of worship for 190 years. It stands in a sequestered and romantic situation, nearly in the centre of the original burying-ground, and close upon Sir Ralph Anstruther's enclosures and plantations. It is the burying-place of the family of Balcaskie, and of the minister of Abercrombie and family. A few families of the



adjacent tenantry still use the burying-ground, Abercrombie being the oldest remembered site of their ancestors.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1775, by return to Dr Webster,	780
in 1790,	832
in 1821,	912
in 1831,	1110

The increase within the last ten years is partly to be accounted for by the working of the coal; since the coal ceased to be wrought, there has been a marked diminution of the population.

There are about 130 of the population in the country, and 884 in St Monan's.

*Births.*—The average of births cannot be given with so much certainty, as were desirable,—from the neglect of many parents in giving in their children's names for registration. But the whole number from 1828 till 1833 inclusive, is 59, which gives an average of  $9\frac{5}{7}$  for each year.

The average of deaths in six years, appears from a register which was for some time kept by the minister, to be  $19\frac{1}{6}$ .

*Families.*—The number of families in the parish by the minister's last visiting list is 248.

I do not know more than one bachelor above fifty years old in the parish, but there are at least 12 widowers of that age, and there are 19 unmarried females above forty-five.

In 1828, there died in the parish, in his ninety-second year, in full vigour both of body and mind, a respectable farmer, whose ancestors and himself had occupied the same farm on the Abercrombie estate, for nearly 300 years. His name was John Cowper, and his son (Robert) still keeps possession.\*

There are two male parishioners of ours, at present boarded in the Dundee Lunatic Asylum. The board of one of these unfortunate persons is defrayed out of his own funds, that of the other by the kirk-session and heritors. We have three fatuous persons at home, not strictly under coercion, and all of them maintained by their respective families without parochial assistance. These last mentioned were born without apparent defect either of body or mind. Their present unhappy state is to be ascribed to very severe sickness in early life.

\* There is every reason to believe, that it is of this stationary family, that the admirable William Cowper of Olney thus writes to one of his friends, (Mrs Courtenay.) "While Pitcairne whistles for his family estate in Fifeshire, he will do well if he will sound a few notes for me. I am originally of the same shire, and a family of my name is still there."—*See Dundee Courier*, January 11, 1822.

There are no blind, deaf, or dumb in the parish.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people on the whole are most industrious, and enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts of society. In most of the fishermen's families, there is at times a striking air of comfort. For the wet, hungry, and weary fisherman (at sea since two or three o'clock in the morning) there is a blazing fire, and a clean substantial breakfast set out, to which he sits down with much relish and enjoyment. The ordinary food of the peasantry at their meals is oatmeal, potatoes, fish, and in most families, in the country part of the parish, a little pork of their own rearing.

During the last three years there have been 4 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

In tillage,	1015
plantation,	57
common,	12
	— 1084

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of grain raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is, say

Wheat, barley, oats, beans,	L. 2700
Potatoes and turnips,	1750
Hay cultivated,	600
Pasture,	330
	—
	L. 5380

*Rent.*—The rent of land varies from L. 1, 14s. to L. 3, 4s. per imperial acre. The greater part of the rent is paid in grain, and consequently fluctuates according to the county fiars. The average rent of the parish under cultivation may be taken at L. 2, 5s. per acre. A lease of twenty-one years has just expired; the rent was one-half boll wheat, do. barley, do. oats, and L. 1, 1s. The same farm is now let at an equal amount of grain, and L. 1, 3s. per acre. For pasturing a full-grown ox or cow during the season, L. 3.

*Husbandry.*—The usual rotation upon easy land is grass broken up for oats; oats followed by potatoes or turnips. If potatoes, wheat succeeds, the wheat laid down with grass. This is used for one year for cutting grass or hay, and pastured perhaps for a year, and again broken up for oats. Such is the outline of our husbandry. As the soil is lighter or stronger, there occur of course varieties of culture. Upon the whole, it coincides entirely with the agriculture of the surrounding district.

For potatoe ground to the people of St Monan's the farmer receives 2s. for the row of 100 yards, provided the people afford the



manure. If he afford ground, labour, and manure, he draws 4s. per 100 yards. The best manure, that which fishing towns afford, is estimated at 5s. a load.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years.

*Farm-Buildings.*—The farm-buildings are in general commodious and in good repair. There are some of the recently erected steadings uncommonly extensive, convenient, and substantial. The inclosures being in general hedge and ditch, there are few of them sufficient fences, otherwise there would be a greater proportion of the land occasionally in pasture.

With the exception of the undivided common above-mentioned, there are no waste grounds to reclaim. Draining has been and is still successfully carried on.

*Wages.*—A good labourer receives from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d. per day. Lifting potatoes 1s. a-day and dinner. Harvest wages 1s. 6d. a-day from breakfast. The whole harvest for men, L. 2 with bounties, viz. potatoe and lint ground, with supper meal. The whole harvest for women, L. 1, 13s. with bounties as above. Mechanics, such as masons, wrights, &c. have never under 2s. a day, and 2s. 6d. in summer. The common rate of wages for farm-servants is about L. 10, with a house,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, 3 chopins of milk, with potatoe-ground. Female servants receive L. 3 in the half year, exclusive of tea-money.

*Quarries.*—We have a quarry of excellent freestone, but with too much superincumbent earth to pay the working of it.

*Fishery.*—This is one of the principal fishing stations on the east coast of Scotland, and, including men, women and children, it may afford their chief occupation to about 300 individuals. The children, before they are able for harder work, go in great numbers, and to a distance of some miles, to gather bait. The women bait the lines. The men, including boys from fourteen to eighteen, go a-fishing. The herring-fishery is the great concern with our people. There is a partial herring-fishery, comparatively near to our own shores, in the winter and spring months. But it is the Caithness or north country fishing which forms the great object of attention to our people. From the latter part of June, and to the middle of July, they are in a bustle of preparation. The number of the boats fitted out is twenty-six, at fifteen tons each. The complement of men for each boat is five, in all 130 for twenty-six boats. St Monan's does not furnish that number. There may be two men to each boat, strangers, finding employment in our boats. These are cal-

led *half-deal* men, from the limited proportion they receive of the profits, which is reasonably so limited, because, while they furnish their own nets, they have no property in the boats. The following may be taken as a tolerably accurate statement of the cost of fitting out one of our principal boats for sea. Boat with all her tackling and appurtenances, L. 85; 20 nets at L. 4 each, L. 80; provisions, L. 30. Every net is about 50 yards long, and fifteen score meshes wide, 32 meshes in the yard, the mesh  $1\frac{1}{4}$  of an inch. The engagement which our people enter into with the fish-dealers is for six weeks; but the bargain is understood to have been implemented by the fishers of any one boat when they have caught 250 barrels, in howsoever short a time.

Cod-fishing for export is carried on to a considerable extent here. The packing furnishes employment and maintenance to many females. This fishing, however, is of very limited duration. When the herring disappear in the end of winter, it ceases of course, as it is with herring-bait that the cod are taken.

The cod, when cured, are sent to the London and Liverpool markets. Haddocks, turbot, cod, &c. are, in their several seasons, sent in great quantities to the Edinburgh market, and also supply our own adjacent country by means of cadgers and fish-women.

Besides 26 boats of about 15 tons, there are perhaps 14 yawls of  $7\frac{1}{2}$  tons.

*Manufactures.*—We have only four weavers in the parish, and these have sometimes other occupations.

The working of nets is a very general occupation among the young. They will make at the rate of 9d a day. Kelp has long ago ceased to be a profitable concern, nor has there been any made these many years. We have in St Monan's a very extensive malt-ing and brewing concern.

*Navigation.*—There are two trading vessels belonging to the port; a schooner seventy-eight tons old register; a sloop belonging to the same owners, forty tons old register. These vessels are chiefly employed in the coasting-trade. It is very seldom that we are visited by foreign vessels.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

St Monan's can hardly be called a market-town, in the proper sense of the word. It is a burgh of barony holding of Newark. It has three bailies, a treasurer, and fifteen councillors. The feu-ars choose the bailies, and the bailies the councillors. There are twelve constables annually chosen.



*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Pittenweem, about a mile and a half distant; it is also the nearest post-town.

*Village.*—The only vestige of a village in the parish, exclusive of St Monan's, is Abercrombie. It contains the manse and offices, two farm-houses with their extensive offices, a wright and a smith's respective shops, with the dwelling-houses of these tradesmen, two houses for married farm-servants, (others being lodged in a bothie) and two houses besides, occupied by persons connected with the place.

There is no post-office in the parish, but the London and Edinburgh mail arrives at Pittenweem every morning about half-past six, and leaves the same place at seven in the evening. There are nearly two miles of excellent turnpike road along the north-east boundary of the parish, and about the same extent along the shore from east to west.

*Means of Communication.*—The Balcarres coach starts from Anstruther for Pettycur at eight in the morning, Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, throughout the year; and from 2, Princes Street, at ten A. M. for Anstruther, every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday. There is a daily coach for a great part of the year from Anstruther to Largo, where there arrives twice a-day a steamer from Newhaven. There are many steamers coasting along, every lawful day in summer, and affording great facilities for intercourse with the metropolis.

A carrier from Crail to Edinburgh passes and repasses every week, and generally one from Pittenweem to Cupar, the county town.

*Bridge.*—In Sir Ralph Anstruther's pleasure grounds, there is a very handsome stone-bridge over the stream which separates the parish of Abercrombie from that of Carnbee. The plan was given by Mr Burn, and does credit to the taste of that distinguished architect.

*Harbours.*—There is a tolerable harbour at St Monan's. It is formed by the natural opening before adverted to (page 339,) and by a strong pier running nearly in a direct line from the shore, then gradually bending towards the west, in the form of a quay, of considerable elevation.—What chiefly merits observation is the great depth of water. At stream-tides, when full water, it is from 18 to 20 feet deep at the entrance, and in ordinary floods, from 13 to 15. Though by this depth it is capable of admitting vessels of burden, none such frequent it, except in the summer months, and then but very seldom, and when "freighted to the place, for the

entrance (says my predecessor) is narrow, between two ridges of rocks, the bottom rough, and thereby difficult and dangerous.

Our chief imports are coal and lime; and exports, potatoes, cured cod, and herrings.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is conveniently situated for the great bulk of the population, viz. the inhabitants of St Monan's, but very much the reverse for the minister and his family. The original parish church, abandoned to ruin these 190 years, was about five minutes walk from the manse. But when the chapel in the barony of St Monan's came to be used as the parish church, the manse and offices remained where they had ever been, and hence their inconvenient distance of a full mile from the place of worship, since 1646. The manse was rebuilt from the foundation, 1795–6, and in 1818–19, an addition made to it, and a complete set of offices erected. Upon either of these occasions, it might have seemed obvious to remove the manse and offices to the vicinity of the church. But in 1796, the aged incumbent, attached to the localities of Abercrombie, does not appear to have wished for a change, and when the enlargement of the manse and new offices were thought necessary, in 1819, there were, from the minority of the two great heritors, legal difficulties in the way of a change of site, which prevented the removal, however desirable, from being carried into effect. Partly surrounding the manse, enlarged as above, there is an excellent garden, most substantially inclosed, and a good set of offices. The glebe, which is two-thirds substantially enclosed with hedge and ditch, consists, inclusive of the site of the manse and offices, of 9 acres, 3 roods, and 31 falls, Scotch measure. The stipend is as follows:—

	<i>Qrs.</i>	<i>B.</i>	<i>P.</i>	<i>G.</i>	
Barley,	32	3	1	1	
Oats,	4	5	1½	0	
Of money I am paid from Balcaskie estate, in lieu of vicarage					L. 2 18 0
tithes,					11 2 2
And from Elie estate,					L. 14 0 2
From which deduct what I pay of public burdens, as drawing the whole					1 5 8½
teind of Newark,					L. 12 14 5½
					32 19 4
Government Bounty,					L. 45 13 9½
Total money,					

There was no communion element money in my predecessor's time. The want of this was considered, and allowed for in my Govern-



ment Bounty. The glebe now exceeds the measurement given by my predecessor, 1 acre, 3 roods, and 29 falls. This is owing to an excambion, in which the minister got quantity for quality. The glebe is now much more convenient for the minister than formerly. He draws a rent for the grass in the church-yard.

To return to the church itself, after this view of the temporalities of the benefice, it is said, I believe on good traditional authority, to have been built about the fortieth year of David II.'s reign. (1369.) His father Robert I. had died 1329. Tradition says, that David and his Queen, narrowly escaping shipwreck on the "stormy frith," had found a landing on the shore, hard by St Monan's, and that, as an expression of gratitude for their deliverance, they had caused to be erected a chapel to St Monan, the tutelary saint of the place. By David's charter, dated Edinburgh, he grants to this chapel the lands of Easter Birney in Fife, and some lands in the sheriffdom of Edinburgh. James III. gave it to the Black-friars. It had afterwards a convent at Cupar annexed to it, and both it and the convent were annexed by James V. to a convent at St Andrews.

The condition which this well known fabric exhibited ten years ago had been its condition for ages.

Situated at the west end of St Monan's, and separated from it by a small brook, and within fifty yards of what is shown as St Monan's Cell, it exhibited a beautiful specimen of Gothic architecture, in the form of a cross, with a steeple of hewn stone in the centre, square so far, and terminating in a spire of eight sides. There remained no vestige of building from the steeple westward; but to the north and the south of it, were to be seen the unroofed remains of a transept, or wings, at right angles to the body of the fabric. The main part of the building, extending eastward from the spire, with vaulted roof, as well described by my predecessor, and in Sibbald, was used, as above-mentioned, as the parish church. However interesting to the antiquarian, it was most uncomfortable as a place of worship; damp, cold, its walls covered with green mould, and presenting altogether an aspect of chilling desolation. In 1772, the late incumbent, in respect of its uncomfortable and ruinous condition, raised a process for repairs before the Presbytery, and obtained a decret against the heritors for repairs, extensive and substantial.

The heritors conceived that this was not an expense with which they ought to be burdened, forasmuch as the feuars of St Mo-

nan's, by their charter as above quoted, were bound to uphold the fabric. The heritors accordingly had recourse upon the feuars — the latter resisted, and the matter came before the Court of Session. The feuars were found liable to uphold the building in terms of their charter. They did therefore apply a repair, but very partial, and by no means amounting to what had been decerned by the Presbytery, "and nothing more," says my predecessor in 1790, "has yet been done." Down to 1825, it continued the uncomfortable decaying fabric above described.

But a great deal has now been done. Early in February 1826, the present incumbent brought the state of the church before the Presbytery. A visitation in the usual form took place, the heritors being competently represented, and tradesmen attending, according to citation. Upon thorough inspection, the tradesmen formally condemned the church. The heritors' representatives craving delay, the Presbytery did not immediately decern. Another meeting was appointed, against which the heritors engaged to have the opinion of Mr Burn, architect. This gentleman being applied to, visited the church, and with strong professional enthusiasm, deprecated the idea of its being abandoned to ruin, and gave his decided opinion as to its capability of being repaired into a beautiful specimen of ecclesiastical architecture, and a place of worship singularly well adapted for seeing and hearing. This report coinciding with the previous views of the heritors, and approved by the Presbytery, was immediately acted upon; and after all the tedious forms connected with so great a work, we were, in June 1828, put into occupation of one of the most beautiful places of worship of which the country can boast. There was a lofty communication opened under a splendid arch betwixt the main building and the area of the steeple. The side-wings to the north and south, forming the transept, were raised to the height of the principal building, and finished in the same style with the original roof. The pulpit was removed to the west end, immediately in front of a magnificent Gothic window. There were opened four similar windows in the south wall, and two in the north, and we were provided with a commodious vestry behind the church.

The heritors abandoned the claim they had upon the feuars for upholding the fabric; but thought it reasonable that, as an indemnification for the great sum laid out by them, (not less than L. 1730,) they should receive a moderate seat rent from the feuars. This arrangement (consented to by the feuars) still subsists, one



of the most reasonable instances that can be conceived of seat rents drawn by heritors. It appears the more reasonable in the following views; that the rents have been twice reduced; that they are now only 1s. a sitting; and that, besides the original sum of L. 1730, the heritors, upon two different occasions, 1829-1836, have come forward, and at an expense, 1st, of L. 40, and 2d, of L. 17, have ordered a strengthening of the roof by additional couples, for the removal of apprehensions, in regard to the safety of the building.

This unfortunate state of matters, in regard to the church, makes it somewhat difficult to say, who are or are not members of the Established Church. We are in a transition state. Respectable parishioners are still absenting themselves. But we are not aware of many having joined Dissenting congregations. There is no Seceding or Dissenting place of worship in the parish; nor are there now, we should think, above twenty-five grown up persons in the bounds who acknowledge any dissenting minister as their adopted pastor. The church is seated for 528; deduct free sittings for the poor 36; preserved for heritors, their families, and their servants, farmers, their children and servants, the elders and minister's, and schoolmaster's seats, 200; there remain for letting, 292; an ample supply for the parishioners, and considerably exceeding the number of applicants.

The number of persons of all ages attending the Established Church, we cannot, in present circumstances, state with accuracy. But, without reference to our late alarms, we might say, towards 300. There should be many more, and we lament that there are not. Clerical means are used to augment the attendance, but we are apt to have offered as excuses, the difficulty of hearing, the want of decent clothing, the coldness of the church, especially in winter, —artificial heat, by means of stoves or otherwise, never having been introduced.

The average number of communicants may be given at 210. It is low compared with the population. Many are absent at sea, when the sacrament is dispensed in summer, and when we have it in February, when the men are at home, it falls in with the throng of the winter herring-fishing.

There is in the parish an Abercrombie and St Monan's Bible and Missionary Society of some years standing. But, from want of unanimity among the members as to the disposal of the funds,

it has greatly declined from its original efficiency, and seems verging to total extinction.

*Education.*—We have one parochial school. The average number attending was given in at last examination at 51 boys and 35 girls = 86. The schoolmaster has the legal accommodations, and the maximum salary. His fees are, reading per quarter, 2s. ; writing 2s. 6d. arithmetic, 3s. ; Latin, 5s. ; no additional charge has hitherto been made for English grammar or geography. The fees may amount to L. 25, or L. 30 a year. The parochial schoolmaster, altogether *proprio motu*, carries on efficiently and acceptably a Sabbath evening school. There is another school in St Monan's upon the teacher's own adventure. I do not understand his fees or the branches taught to be different from those of the parochial school. He is of the Established Church, his numbers 67. There has been recently established in the parish by Lady Anstruther of Balcaskie, an infant school, which is also supported by her ladyship, and promises to be of great benefit to the place. None of the children at other schools in the parish, cost less than 2s per quarter, none more than 5s. There is no quarter of the parish so distant from school, as to be a bar to attendance. There are no additional schools required. But a *sewing school* might possibly be of advantage. From the irregular attendance of children at school the people here might be thought less alive to the benefits of education than they really are. But they are so dependent upon the services of the children in some of the fishing departments, that they are constrained to keep them from school when they would be glad that they could attend it. Many parents, however, are culpably remiss in enforcing attendance.

*Friendly Societies.*—Of friendly societies we have the following: The Sea-box Society, supposed to have been instituted about the time of the union of the Crowns. Its articles are fair and judicious, but too numerous and complicated for insertion, and it were difficult to make a selection. There is one important improvement which the society have recently sanctioned. While they pronounce it necessary, that sea-faring people shall always constitute a clear majority of the members of the society; and while they find countenance in this from the practice of the generality of friendly societies, they resolve, “that, with the preference specified, persons, of *whatever* occupation, shall be *alike eligible* as to admission, and equally so, with regard to the benefits, as well as the offices and



honours of the Sea-Box Society, conforming to their regulations," &c. The society's funds are represented as in a flourishing state, and answering the end of the institution.

There is also distinct from this, the Brotherly Society, instituted July 1821.

*Savings Bank.*—There are two savings banks, one of a good many years standing; the other instituted December 1835. With regard to it, I have been informed that its deposits (in the National Bank, Anstruther,) amount to about L. 2 per week. There is also a female savings bank, reported to be doing well. The investments in these banks are by the fishing and labouring classes.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The heritors and session have a regular meeting every half year about the middle of June and the middle of December, when they audit the treasurer's accounts, adjust the poor's roll for the ensuing half year, and come to a decision upon matters of parochial business.

Our average, taken half yearly, from 1st January 1835, to 31st December 1836, gives us of pensioners 19, at 3s. 2d. nearly per month.

The session's yearly income from all sources, from 1st October 1835, to 30th September 1836, amounts to L. 39, 1s. 9½d.; \* session's expenditure for the said year L. 91, 5s., leaving a deficit, supplied by the heritors in voluntary assessment, L. 52, 3s. 2½d.

*Prisons.*—There are two prisons in St Monan's, under one roof, one on the upper floor of the town-house, the other on the ground floor. They are equally well secured; the lower, by much the more dismal of the two. Prisoners are committed to the one or the other according to their pre-eminence in delinquency. The magistrates imprison as sudden emergency calls for it; but they do not impose fines, except with the formalities of a regularly constituted court. So far as I have occasion to hear, imprisonment is a rare occurrence.

*Inns, &c.*—As this place is no thoroughfare, there can hardly be

* Sessional means of meeting expenditure.		
Collections at church door, exclusive of those at the sacrament,		L. 8 18 11½
Rent for land belonging to the session,		21 0 0
Rent for a house,		2 12 0
Interest of money,		2 16 0
Collections at the sacrament twice in the year, including all the preaching days,		2 17 6
		<hr/>
		L. 38 4 5½
Add to the collections 4d. each Sabbath to beadle,		0 17 4
		<hr/>
		L. 39 1 9½

said to be in it one traveller's inn, where there is regular stabling or posting. But there are too many ale-houses, and their effect upon the morals of the people is highly unfavourable.

*Fuel.*—Fuel is an expensive article here. Coal, exclusive of toll, may be stated at 1s. 3d. the load of 22 stone; 1s. 4d. if toll be included; a cart load of  $4\frac{1}{2}$  stone laid down at Abercrombie, with *hire* and toll included, would stand 8s.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. It is a coal at four miles distance that is referred to,—Earlsferry. Sir Ralph Anstruther has lately opened a coal in the neighbourhood at 1s. a load of 22 stone.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There is one variation of rather an unpleasant kind betwixt the present state of the parish and people, and that which subsisted at the time of the last Statistical Account. They are certainly less shy than formerly in applying for and receiving parochial aid. My predecessor says, “There are now upon the poor's list three persons and two orphans.” At present there are nineteen. There are no indications of such an increase of poverty as can account for this difference. The truth is, that the spirit of independence, which shrunk from being troublesome in coming upon the fund, is now greatly broken down. It is natural to think that the fine edge of delicacy will be blunted as the number of receivers increase, to keep one another in countenance. Whatsoever is given, however, is received thankfully, and it is so far consoling that pauperism has not been upon the increase these some years. It is, at the same time, a compensating fact, that our collections, though still extremely moderate, are very far beyond what they were forty years ago. Within these last twenty years, there has been a marked improvement in the style of the farm-houses and farm offices in the parish. It seems to be no unwarranted assertion, that the people are improving in general intelligence, and in their acquaintance with the truths of religion.\*

*January 1837.*

\* In stating the amount of stipend, the author has omitted the stipend from Balcaskie. The following is the actual grain stipend:

		Qr.	B.	P.	L.		Qr.	B.	P.
Abercrombie,	.	32	3	1	1	Oats,	4	5	$1\frac{1}{4}$
Balcaskie,	.	28	7	3	0		28	7	3



## PARISH OF DUNINO.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS AND SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES ROGER, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Etymology.*—THE parish of Dunino, pronounced by the inhabitants Dununie, is of more consideration for its antiquity, neighbourhood, and recent rapidity of improvement, than for its extent, or value as a section of its county. The reporter to Sir John Sinclair on this parish first assumes that its name is Den-ino, which it is not; and then proceeds to account for its derivation from words signifying “a village on a large and deep den.” But there has not been, time out of mind, any thing which can be called a village in the parish: and the “den, so deep and large,” is nothing more than the beds which have been formed by two little streams, which after their union are able to turn a saw-mill. For fifty-four years after the commencement of the parochial register in 1643, the name of the parish is uniformly spelt Duynyno, Duynynow, or Dunnonow, the first syllable always being Dun, till 1697, when it was first corrupted into “Dennino.”

The highest eminence in the parish is  $1\frac{1}{3}$  furlong north of the church, scarcely 300 feet above the level of the sea, and on which tradition relates there was a nunnery; and the foundation stones of it were removed, twenty-two years ago, during the present minister's incumbency. There is as much evidence that the parish received its name from the nunnery, as can generally be obtained in cases of this kind. The register of the priory of St Andrews, appended to the second volume of Mr Pinkerton's History, and drawn up about the year 1250, shows that the ancient names of places in this parish and neighbourhood are Gaelic. Martine of Clermont, Secretary to Archbishop Sharpe, in his “Remains of St Andrews,” written in 1685, calls the parish of Dunino, “the Rectory of Dunnenaucht,” or the hill of young women, evidently referring to the nunnery. The same author gives a copy of a charter granted by the Archbishop of St Andrews, so far back as October 4, 1479,

in which Dunino is called “Dynnenoch,” precisely of the same import.

*Situation and Extent.*—This parish, including Kingsmuir, approaches to a square form, about 3 miles long, and as many broad. The church is 4 miles south-east of St Andrews, which town is situated North Lat.  $56^{\circ} 19' 33''$ , and West Long.  $2^{\circ} 50'$  from the Observatory at Greenwich. Dunino parish is bounded by St Andrews and Cameron parishes on the north and west; by those of St Leonards and Kingsbarns, on the north-east and east; by Crail parish, on the east and south; and by Carnbee, on the south. It lies 13 miles east of Cupar, the county town; the same distance south-east from Dundee; and 37 miles north of Edinburgh. The highway from St Andrews to Anstruther, an extent of nine miles, bisects the parish, and forms the eastern angle of the peninsula, or provincially, the East Nook of Fife.

*Climate.*—The effect of the proximity of Dunino to the sea-coast, added to the recent drainage of the ground, the application of calcareous and putrescent manures, the inclosing by stone fences in every part but Kingsmuir, the partial shading by plantation,—and the wind blowing two-thirds of the year from the south-west, and only one-third from the cold north-east,—has been of much advantage not only to the soil, but to the inhabitants. The writer of the former Account mentions that, from thirty to forty years before his time, “scorbutic disorders” prevailed in the parish. These were obviously caused by want of sufficient lodging, clothes, and food. The writer of the former Account, adds, that, in his time, “rheumatism and hysteric complaints were the chief disorders.” An instance of rheumatism may no doubt here still occur as in other places; but certainly the complaint is not general. Hysterical affections are here unknown: and intermittent fevers have vanished. Though the chalybeate fountains, eulogized in the former Account, and of which no trace remains, were still available, they would be held useless, from the general health of the present inhabitants.

*Geology, Mineralogy, and Hydrography.*—The parish of Dunino is situated on the north-east part of the great coal basin of Scotland, supposed to be 90 miles long, and 33 miles broad. It is believed that a square mile of this space will answer the demand yearly. Coal began first to be used in Scotland, near Dunfermline, in Fifeshire, about 1215. On every estate in the parish, are vestiges of coal-working at some former period; and very frequently at the surface, appears bituminous schistus or blaes, denoting



the presence of this mineral. No coal is at present wrought in the parish, from a belief it would not pay the expense; and nothing is more difficult to calculate than the profits of coal-working. The strata unexpectedly may be disturbed by mounds of stone, or may wholly break off or dip beyond reach. Beside the upland path to the church from Bridge-end, there is a projection of disintegrated trap, provincially *ratchel* or rotten-stone; across which, are some narrow vertical veins of felspar. Proceeding up Dunino burn-side southward, a few projections of red sandstone, in regular strata, appear. Farther upward, the bed of the burn becomes limestone, and in that proximity the coping of the ministers' out-field glebe under the surface is also limestone. Here also, a stratum of coal, 3 feet thick, has been discovered 32 feet under the surface, dipping considerably towards the north. The regulation as to finding coal in glebes gives little encouragement to the incumbent. His operations may be suspended by the presbytery or any heritor, till, after paying expenses, he deposit his profits in some bank or other sure place, and have only the interest of his deposit for his pains. Some mineralogists assert that coal under limestone is not good, but under sandstone excellent. Now two-thirds of the rocks in this parish are sandstone, not of a large grit called conglomerate, but small, and often very white, without tinge of ferruginous mixture. The exports from the sandstone quarries of Mylnefield, four miles west of Dundee, have brought to the proprietor large sums of money. The sandstone quarries of Dunino are as durable in the material, finer in the texture, and better coloured than those of Mylnefield. Were these Dunino quarries placed within the county of Middlesex, near the great southern metropolis, their value would be incalculable. Some years ago, on the farm of Tosh, in this parish, on a search for marl, there was discovered a considerable quantity of steatites or soap-rock. Had this mass of steatites been preserved, it would have contributed to form a manufactory of porcelain. A mile east from the junction of the three rivulets alluded to above, as passing through the parish, and on the south bank of their united stream called the Kenly Burn, is a cavity containing excellent specimens of stalactites, or dropstone. Along the shore of the German Ocean, to which the Kenly surrenders its waters, is a mass of marble rock, that would suffice to build three of the largest cities in the empire. There may be seen "*cochleæ marinæ*," and other shells imbedded in the limestone rock. A small part of those marble rocks have been

burned into lime, to manure the adjacent fields. When the marble is polished, it presents a beautifully striated appearance of yellow and white, and might be made a lucrative article of commerce. Except on the clay soils of Stravithy Mains and Kingsmuir, where an ochreous mixture is sometimes found, the water in the rest of the parish passing through a sandy soil is excellent. Our fountains in summer are not only cool, but, in their ordinary state, may be compared with those of the most celebrated purity—containing not more than three parts in a thousand of saline particles and vegetable matter. Over the fields of Dunino parish, may sometimes be found agates and chalcedonies, and fragments of light blue whinstone or trap, or of black whinstone or basalt; but there is nothing to throw light on any of the two fashionable theories of geology. Ironstone or hæmatites is not uncommon in the parish. Recently, a person collected forty tons of that mineral from the side of the rivulet which turns Stravithy-mill, and sent it cost free to Newcastle as ballast.

*Zoology.*—We have all the usual domestic fowls and ordinary birds. Of the two species of Scottish deer, the stag and the roe, only a few of the last mentioned peaceful and timid kind occasionally visit the parish; and so do a few pheasants and foxes. The vast colonies of rabbits described in the former Statistical Account are now nearly extirpated. It appears from an old charter, that, one hundred and fifty years ago, moorfowl abounded in Kingsmuir, but they have been expelled by the progress of agricultural improvement. An attempt was made, a few years ago, to rear a stock of goats of the Angora kind in this parish. They were fed with clover in summer, and with hay and turnips in winter, and were very prolific, the female generally having three kids at a birth. But they were so mischievous in their habits, and their milk in so little request in a healthy district like Dunino, and at a distance from a great town, that in five years they were disposed of as unprofitable. There is abundance of pigeons in the parish, of which the minister has annexed to his benefice the principal dovecot. Before 1617, any person at pleasure might erect a pigeon-house, and probably the minister's dovecot was constructed prior to that period. Afterwards, by law, it was incompetent to build a pigeon-house, unless there was a qualification in the builder, of ten chalders of grain in heritage within two miles of the dovecot, or unless it was purchased from a licensed proprietor. Had it not been for the penalty



of L. 11 Scotch, or 18s. 4d. Sterling, for the first offence of breaking into a dovecot or shooting a pigeon, and double that sum for every subsequent offence, the race had been extinct. Complaints have been made against the acts of Parliament supporting dovecots; but it is with the complaints against pigeons as against crows, people think of the grain devoured, without reckoning on the benefit received. Pigeons pick up much grain that would be lost, may destroy insects in the soil, and certainly feed on wild mustard seed that deteriorates the crop. Sixty-eight pairs, besides keeping up the stock, may furnish yearly an hundred pairs of young to be disposed of at 5d. or 6d. a pair; and pigeon dung is a most valuable manure. It is sown in Persia with the hand over the corn-fields, to great advantage. For the last seven years, the minister of the parish has manured his garden with it not sparingly, but as copiously as with the usual animal or vegetable dung; and not only what is sown or planted prospers generally, but during that space, no instance has occurred of the insect touching the gooseberries. Amidst the modern improvements of conveying speedy intelligence by telegraph, by steam navigation and railroads, it is singular that the plan of letter-carrying by pigeons has not been attempted in Britain, so common at the present day in oriental countries. It is well known that a pigeon when young can easily be domesticated. The Turks of Aleppo, in Syria, carry on a correspondence with the city of Alexandria in Egypt, with our common domestic pigeons of bluish plumage. They are conveyed in cages to show them the route; the letter is rolled up under their wing, and in an hour, barring accidents, the pigeon courier arrives at his home destination, over a space which would require four days travel to a human express.

From experiments made by the writer of these pages, he has reason to believe, that hares never go far from their native spot. The same observation applies to blackbirds, and perhaps to game of every kind. The redbreast, supposed by some to migrate during the warm months, lives in the minister's garden all the summer over.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

All the Scottish historians assert, that, on the land-side of St Andrews, was a large district, called "*Cursus Apri*," or the Boar's chace, and there is a considerable village, three miles east of that town, still called Boarhills. One of the old names of St Andrews, too, was Mucross, the promontory of the Boars. John Major re-

lates, that the boar's chace was conferred by Alexander the Brave, about the year 1107, on some religious establishment in St Andrews; and Martine of Clermont describes this space as what would now amount to from eight to nine English miles long, and from six to seven miles broad. It may appear strange that this forest was permitted so near the gates of a city, the primacy of the kingdom. Dr Southey, in his *Travels through Spain*, mentions a "Sierra de Busaco," a desert about Busaco, of four miles circuit, to preserve the solemnity of the enclosed religious establishment; and Cæsar, in his sixth book of the wars of Gaul, states, that, in Germany, it was usual to have a wilderness round every city, to avoid a sudden incursion of the enemy. Perhaps reasons more probable than either of the above might be assigned why this waste was allowed to remain so near St Andrews. The bishop of that diocese could cultivate no part of this "Cursus Apri" before he had a grant of it from King Alexander, as, prior to this, it might be royal hunting ground; and part of it that was cultivated, undeniably, as appears from the chartulary of Aberbrothock, paid stipend to the Culdees of Iona. Beside this, at the time of the grant, the diocese of St Andrews not only included many of the most fertile parts of Fife, Angus, and Mearns, East and West Lothian, and the Carse of Gowrie, but twenty-seven Scottish nobles held their lands as its vassals. The Bishop of St Andrews, who was but a liferenter, might consider the agricultural improvement of the "Cursus Apri" as a matter of very inferior consequence. In 1244, one hundred and thirty-seven years after the royal grant, some agricultural stir had arisen in the "Cursus Apri," then held by the Archdeacon of St Andrews of his superior, the Bishop. This waste extended farther south than the parish of Dunino, and included it; and the register of the priory of St Andrews, among other places in this vicinity within the "Boar's chace," mentions the following now belonging to this parish, namely, "Indunnenochen," certainly Dunynach or Dunino.—"Balecately," now Balcaithly; "Bale," now Bely; "Pittendruch and Strathfatha," now Pittendruch and Stravithy; "Kinaldin," now Kinaldy. Pittairthy, Kingsmuir, and Primrose, are of far later origin.

Dunino had become a parish in 1458, according to Maitland's History, "when it was annexed by Bishop Kennedy to support a collegiate church in St Andrews." It must have, however, been afterwards disjoined from the college church, now called St Leonards; yet there are still two farms belonging to that parish, and



unconnected with any other part of it, on the north-east border of Dunino.

The parish of Dunino was once much more extensive than at present. It contained the estate of Bonnyton adjoining on the north, and which lately rented at L. 530 a-year; and it contained on the west, the farm of Brighton, containing 222 acres imperial, and worth now L. 300 annually. Of late years, it has been contended by Mr Hannah, proprietor of Kingsmuir, that his property, consisting of 844 acres Scotch, does not lie in Dunino parish, but in that of Crail. This theory has not the slightest foundation. Kingsmuir had originally belonged to the Earl of Fife, but was forfeited to the Crown. It was bestowed by James V. on a gentleman, for assisting to carry military stores to France, about the year 1540; and in 1600, there is an infeftment in favour of the same gentleman's family. Latterly, Kingsmuir became part of the town's revenue of Crail, and afterwards was purchased by the town's revenue of Leith. It became again the property of the Crown, and, posterior to the Restoration, was gifted by Charles II. to a follower of his fortunes, Colonel Borthwick, and who, in 1683, is stated, by the kirk-session register, as also proprietor of the estate of Dunino. In 1710, according to Sir Robert Sibbald, it was wholly waste. In 1727, according to the presbytery record, it contained but four families, the pastoral care of which people was then annexed by the presbytery to the parish of Dunino. This pastoral charge has since been twice repeated by the presbytery, the last time so recently as the year 1829. The poor in Kingsmuir have been regularly supported by the parish of Dunino. The father and uncle of the present proprietor of Kingsmuir, in eleven of their leases, assert that Kingsmuir lies in Dunino parish; and in a part of Kingsmuir sold by them to the then proprietor of Balcaithly, it is declared thrice in the charter of conveyance, that Kingsmuir is situated in Dunino parish, and there is no opposite evidence whatever. The present proprietor of Kingsmuir's name is inserted in the baptismal register of Dunino. A few years ago, the heritors of Dunino raised an action before the Court of Session against the proprietor of Kingsmuir, to find the property, *quoad temporalia*, in the parish of Dunino, and both the Outer and Inner House decerned in favour of the heritors. At last, weary of the contest, both parties withdrew, each paying his own expenses. But neither the United College of St Andrews, who are patrons of Dunino parish, nor the minister of Dunino, had any

hand in the withdrawal; and they are determined to retain Kingsmuir as part of Dunino parish, which, in case of a new augmentation, has funds to benefit the church living, at least L. 60 a-year.

*Parochial Registers.*—When the restoration of Presbyterian government was ratified by Parliament in 1641, parochial registers were recommended to be kept. From April 30, 1643, in a regular series to the present period, there are eight volumes of parochial records in tolerable preservation. There is a register of deaths since the year 1752. For many years after 1643, nearly the whole heritors and principal tacksmen were elders,—an example worthy of imitation at the present day. The office of the elders was no sinecure, nor were they shy of using their authority. It appears that they were not only the protectors of good morals, but assumed a civil and criminal jurisdiction. In 1660, two men and four women were convicted on their own confession, of “promiscuous dancing,” that is, of dancing together at a marriage. They escaped with being “sharpie rebuked;” but the poor piper John Moore, from the next parish of “Carnbie,” who acted as minstrel on that occasion, was obliged “to put his hand to the pen,” not to repeat the offence, “under a penalty toties quoties,” which would now be equivalent to a couple of pounds Sterling. Moreover, on the following Sunday, “he was humbled on his knees before the pulpit in face of the congregation,” in public penance for his conduct. In 1649, “Alexander Brune was put into the *joggs* from the second bell to the last bell before sermon on forenoone, and afterwards entered on the place of repentance for the sin of uncleanness with Elpeth Berown.” Though it be stated in the record, that during the above period, the Presbytery on several occasions issued their pastoral admonitions against prevailing vices, yet delinquencies were frequently brought before the kirk-session, which would be deprecated in these latter and less zealous days. Weavers are sometimes cited for carrying home their webs to their customers on Sundays, and millers are cited for grinding corn, and reapers for cutting down corn on that holy day. In 1652, the kirk-session of Dunino not only acted as civil and criminal judges, but were patrons of the parish, and settled the minister. Thus, May 30th of that year, it is stated in the record, “that after the afternoon’s exercise, the minister intimated out of the pulpit to the people, that the elders had nominate and chosen unanimously, Mr Alexander Edward, Regent in the Old Colledge, to be minister of



their said parish ;” and, accordingly, on Wednesday, 13th October following, the presbytery did meet at the church, “for admission of Mr Alexander Edward to the function of the ministrie, and they did admit him.” Notwithstanding the active oppression of Archbishop Sharpe in Fifeshire for eighteen years, no county in Scotland was more zealous for Presbyterianism against Episcopacy ; and during that period, according to Wodrow’s history, the inhabitants of “Dunyno,” for their opposition, were fined in a sum that would now be equal to L. 1200 Sterling.

*Eminent Men.*—John of Fordun, author of the *Scotichronicon*, the oldest Scottish historian, is said to have resided for a considerable time in this parish,—which is the more probable, that he was a native of St Andrew’s diocese, of which Dunino formed a part. He spent much of his time in journeying. He travelled over the three kingdoms, in quest of information ; and his history may be called that of the world, as well as of Scotland. \*

John Winram, Subprior of St Andrews under the excellent and comely Lord James Stuart, eldest of the three illegitimate brothers of Mary Queen of Scots,—after the celibacy of the clergy had been done away by the establishment of the reformed faith—was married to the widow of the proprietor of Kinaldy, in this parish. Both Knox and Buchanan assert, that Mr Winram was appointed by Cardinal Beaton to preach a sermon in the church of St Andrews, on occasion of condemning to death the pious Mr Wishart. Knox gives notes of the sermon, and Beaton was offended at Winram treating a heretic more mildly than he thought a heretic deserved. Buchanan in his history, gives Winram an appropriate text, which he must have had from report, as it is not to be found in Scripture.

Mr James Wood, who, according to the parish record, “as minister of Dunonow, preached his valedictorie sermon, May 10, 1646,” previous to his becoming minister of St Andrews, was one of the Commissioners who brought over from the continent, King Charles II., at the era of the Restoration. Mr Wood is said to have been the brother of the proprietor of Stravithy.

*Land-owners.*—The heritors of the parish are as follows, in the orders of their valued rents : Mr Douglas of Dunino and Balcaithly ;

\* His reflections on the fair part of the creation, arising from the marriage of King David II. with Miss Logie, whose dispositions were the counterpart of her beautiful face, and handsome person, are very unchivalrous, “*femina fax Satanæ, rosa fetens, dulce venenum.*”

Mr Cleghorn of Stravithy; Mrs Mouat of Pittairthy; Mr Purves of Kinaldy; Mr Hannah of Kingsmuir, and the Kirk-session of Elie on the south coast. All those properties have come into the possession of the families of the present land-owners, within the last thirty-two years, save Pittairthy, Kingsmuir, and Primrose. It is said that Pittairthy, forfeited to the Crown, was sold by Royalty to the Earl of Glencairn, and has continued in a younger branch of that illustrious family till the present day. Kingsmuir has been at least eighty-one years in the family of Mr Hannah. Primrose was a section sold from Balcaithly, within the last forty-six years.

*Antiquities.*—Until within the last few years, there were three war castles or fortalices in the parish. One was on the east of it, overhanging the south bank of the Kenly, called the Castle of Draffan, supposed to have been built by the Danes, who often invaded the east coast of Fife, and slew one of the Scottish kings at Crail. The second was the Castle of Stravithy, a little west from the centre of the parish. It is described by Sir Robert Sibbald as entire, about a hundred and twenty-seven years ago; it was a regular fortalice, situated in a bog with ditch and drawbridge—and, according to the son of a feuar who lived hard by, was surrounded with ornamental walks and lofty trees, some of which trees at present remain. The bog has been drained, and the site of the castle been converted into corn-land. The third is the Castle of Pittairthy, built on a declivity towards the south part of the parish, and commanding a wide prospect of the German sea. Though it has long been unroofed and unrepaired, it may defy the assault of the elements for centuries to come. This structure appears to have been erected at two separate periods. The west or first built is a large square tower, the date of erection uncertain. Near the west top, was a keep or donjon, very common in those military abodes, with a strong iron grating across an opening in the wall, to serve for a window. The whole under part is vaulted, which probably served for cellars, kitchen, and bed-rooms. The upper part of the castle is perforated with holes, by which to annoy the besiegers. The east or modern part, according to the inscription on it, was built in 1653, by Sir William Bruce of Kinross. It contained only a baronial hall, and two sleeping apartments, stone-paved.

About one furlong and a third north of the church, on Dunino Law, from which it has been shown the parish probably derives its name, the ruins of a nunnery were dug up and removed in the



year 1815. The height of the walls is unknown, but the structure consisted of unhewn stones, cemented with mortar, instead of lime. The internal space was formed into two divisions, and the door fronted the east.

There are three stones nearly close to the west wall of the minister's garden, which seem to have been part of a Druidical circle. This is rendered probable by several circumstances. There, the rising sun may be seen; and a few yards westward, is part of a sandstone rock artificially tubulated, in which, tradition relates that the priests of the Druid faith collected dew on the first day of May or *Bel-tien*, and sprinkling the people, pronounced a blessing on them from the God of Fire, that is the sun in the firmament, which they ignorantly worshipped. A short mile westward is a farm mentioned in the register of the priory of St Andrews in the thirteenth century, still called *Pittan-druidh*, the grave of the Druids, vulgarly *Pittendriech*.

From the chartulary of Aberbrothock, it appears that, in 1242, Stravithy estate, in this parish, paid stipend to the Culdees at Iona, and afterwards to some disciples of the Romish faith, which appears to have continued at Dunino, notwithstanding the zeal of presbyteries, till near the Union. For within the last ten years, some copper coins of Charles I. and II., and William and Mary, were found in a grave in the churchyard, which money, it is supposed, had been destined to pay the passage of the party interred, out of purgatory.

Twenty years ago, two coins, one gold, and the other silver, struck in the reign of Philip II. of Spain, were dug up, the one in the parish, the other in the neighbourhood. Both of these coins had probably been brought by the vessels of the Armada that were stranded on the coast of Fife. They were sent to an eminent antiquary in Dundee.

In spring 1836, in a field belonging to Balcaithly, in this parish, there was torn up by the plough an urn containing probably the reliques of some Roman chief.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1793, the population, judging from the records of baptisms, was 383, same as in 1831.

1800,	-	-	-	-	326
1805,	-	-	-	-	320
1811, 140 males and 167 females,	-	-	-	total,	307
1821, 151 do. 192 do.	-	-	-	-	342
1831, 183 do. 200 do.	-	-	-	-	383

The annual average of births, &c. for 1834 and six years preceding, was as follows :—

Births,	-	11 $\frac{1}{2}$
Marriages,	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$
Deaths,	-	3 $\frac{1}{2}$

There are 71 persons occupied in agriculture, and but 15 in retail trade and handicraft. There are 99 males above twenty; 12 beyond seventy; and 1 nearly ninety. Within the last twenty years, 2 died above ninety. There are 78 families living in 74 houses, at very nearly 5 in a family. Two new houses are in the progress of building, and there is no uninhabited house. There are no blind or deaf in the parish; and three, a man, woman, and child, in separate families, are insane.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish of Dunino may be described as wholly agricultural. A corn-mill stands on the estate of Stravithy; and it may be noticed, that the roof of the mill is supported by oak rafters that once covered Cardinal Beaton's proud castle at St Andrews. This corn-mill is of powerful operation, and skilfully manufactures into meal, at 10d. Sterling, a boll of oats of the old Scottish measure. Within seventy years, there were five corn-mills in the parish, one on every estate save Kingsmuir, to which all the farmers were bound for multure. These astrictions are now unknown.

The extent of the different properties in the parish in Scotch acres, and the rent in the year 1836, may be found in the following tables:

	<i>Acres.</i>	<i>Plantations.</i>
Dunino and Balcaithly,	1310	130
Stravithy,	700	130
Pittairthy,	187	None
South Kinaldy,	175	10
Kingsmuir,	844	None
Primrose,	36	Do.
Glebe,	23	Do.
Total acres,	3275	270

#### Rent of the parish in 1836, in Sterling money:

Dunino and Balcaithly	-	-	-	-	L.1363	0	0
Stravithy,	-	-	-	-	927	0	0
Pittairthy,	-	-	-	-	250	0	0
South Kinaldy,	-	-	-	-	237	0	0
Kingsmuir,	-	-	-	-	300	0	0
Primrose,	-	-	-	-	17	0	0
Glebe,	-	-	-	-	28	0	0

L.3122 0 0

Real rent in 1793, according to Sir J. Sinclair's statistics, 1157 0 0

Increase in forty-three years, L.1965 0 0

As Kingsmuir lay waste in the seventh year of Charles II. when



Cromwell's prior valuation was fixed as the standard of estimation, —deduct from L. 3122, the present rent of the parish,—the present rent of Kingsmuir, and the balance is L. 2822; so that the rent of Dunino parish has increased above fourteen times in 169 years, —the valued rent in Scotch money being L. 2334, 6s. 8d., or L. 194, 10s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling.

The plantations have increased since the former Account was drawn up, 210 acres; and, deducting 120 acres for ground still waste that may be cultivated, 2444 acres have been added to the cultivated soil.

The value of live-stock on the farms, including horses, black-cattle, sheep; swine, and poultry in 1836, amounted to L. 5670; implements of husbandry, including eleven thrashing machines, L. 1800; total, L. 7470. Value of stock forty-three years ago, L. 2476; increase, L. 4994.

Kind and value of the crop for the year 1836, as under :

Wheat,	-	-	-	-	L.2105	0	0
Barley,	-	-	-	-	1823	0	0
Oats,	-	-	-	-	2723	0	0
Pease and beans,	-	-	-	-	505	0	0
Potatoes,	-	-	-	-	1229	0	0
Turnips,	-	-	-	-	765	0	0
Grass,	-	-	-	-	2076	0	0
Flax, 64 stones at	-	-	-	-	46	0	0
					L.11272	0	0
Annual produce of crop in 1793,					2596	0	0
Increase in forty-three years,					L.8676	0	0

It is stated in the former Statistical Account, that the soil is “adapted chiefly for oats and barley;” but there is now raised more value of wheat than barley, and the quality is excellent. The fiars for wheat were first struck in 1649, as appears by the Sheriff-Court books of Fife; and that year, the boll of wheat was so high-priced as L. 1, 0s. 1 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. Sterling. The Chevalier barley, as well as the common kind, is in general use; but though estimable for its great weight, it is costly, by requiring a rich soil, and hazardous in late seasons, requiring six weeks longer to mature, after sowing than ordinary barley. In 1643, by the Fife fiars, a boll of “bear” was 10s. Sterling. Several sorts of oats, as the Drummond and Tartar kind, are tried. The potato oats, from their speedy arrival at maturity, bid fair to be preferable. The boll of “aits and meall,” by the Fife fiars in 1643, was 8s. 4d. Sterling. Flax is nearly discontinued in the parish, and will be so generally, when calcareous manures are introduced. Cotton, too, in many respects, supplies the use of flax at a much cheaper rate;

and where linen is wanted, fabrics of that kind from Ireland can be purchased at a far lower price by the farmer, than by home manufacture. Every advantage which can be derived from good agricultural seeds is studied. The eleven thrashing-mills and other implements of husbandry are generally of the best construction.

The breed of black-cattle, neat-limbed, horned, and of a dark colour, common at Dunino and over the county, and called the Fife breed, is celebrated. This race is known to have originated from the bounty of James VI. of Scotland. That monarch, on his accession to the English throne, had drawn largely on his former neighbours at Falkland, to support his royal dignity; and to remunerate them, he selected and sent down a race of excellent black-cattle, from the early cultivated region of south Britain, which have been improved for two centuries, in the luxuriant pastures of Fifeshire. At Dunino, cattle of the yellow or spotted Ayrshire breed, may also be found; but the Fife breed is most approved for fast feeding in grass parks, during summer, and the cows of that race are distinguished as milkers. In the parish, about 190 sheep of the Linton and Biggar or Northumberland breed, are fatted for the owners' tables, or sold to the butchers in the neighbourhood.

Except in Kingsmuir, there are only two farms under L. 50 of rent, the rents of the other farms running from L. 100 to nearly L. 600. On Kingsmuir, the rents of farms proceed in a regular gradation from L. 5 to L. 33. A domain like Kingsmuir, beginning to emerge into agricultural importance, may be well cultivated as at present by small tenants. A man and his family with twelve acres will raise far more corn and cattle in proportion, than he who rents ninety-six acres, because he must employ strangers to assist him. A tacksman on a large scale on the east part of Kingsmuir has recently exhibited such proofs of enterprise, as to show, that if he and a few other similar tacksmen had the whole 844 acres in their hands, they would improve them, more quickly at least, than small tenants. Seventy years have not elapsed since the best farmers here had but a thin partition between their bedrooms and bestial. Now, the principal tenantry either inhabit houses of two stories, or a handsome house of one storey; in both cases, with a suitable establishment of offices. Straw roofs for cottages are going into disuse, and slate or tile roofs are generally adopted.

The great promoter of agricultural improvement in the parish



of Dunino, was the public-spirited Sir William Areskine of Torry, predecessor and relative of Captain Areskine Wemyss, at present Member of Parliament for the county of Fife. About 1767, Sir William, as proprietor of the estate of Dunino, made the same felicitous attack on the asperities of the soil, as he had previously done on the rebels in America. In Sir Robert Sibbald's description of Fife, which was published about 1710, he says, when you come to the east moors of Fifeshire, by which he meant Kingsmuir, the first place which attracts attention is the castle of Stravithy; Dunino estate, Sir Robert Sibbald held unworthy of notice. At this period, the conterminous heritors had a right "to dig seal and divot" on Kingsmuir, and to "pasture their cattle;" which usages were bought up, by granting them sections of land in recompense. The rest of the parish, like Kingsmuir, lay open and uninclosed, and the whole bestial of the forty-four farms, in addition to those of Kingsmuir, were in autumn sent forth, as at present in Iceland, for promiscuous pasture,—though the act of James VII. had existed for ninety years, prohibiting such destructive practice. It was in this state of agricultural barbarity, that Sir William Areskine commenced his operations. He enclosed his whole estate with substantial stone fences five feet high; and ditches along side of them were superadded. He introduced wheat, potatoes, and turnips; and these two latter crops were so scarce in the east of Fife, that at night they were plundered, like apples from an orchard. The horses were shod not only as formerly on the fore feet, but also on the hinder feet. Metal plates were appended to the timber ploughs, as mould boards; the cart wheels of solid wood were abandoned; recourse was had to the saddler, instead of the flax-dresser, for harness; large stones which impeded agricultural operations were removed from the fields; the crooked ridges were made straight; and plantations were formed to shelter the higher grounds. For some years the tacksmen of Dunino were looked up to, as presenting to the public, experimental farms.

Such an example was not lost. The properties of Kinaldy, Pittairthy, Balcaithly, and the most of Stravithy, have been inclosed with stone fences, and in general substantially drained. The empire of bog-plants is on the wane, and the parish, described in the former Account as "wet and spongy," will soon, in every part, deserve the opposite character. The rents, as has been shown; are moderate; the tenants are in good terms with

their landlords ; and one tenant occupies the farm entered upon by his grandfather seventy years ago. The loss by corn-merchants is a theme on which some farmers dwell. Here, there is a persuasion, that, without corn agents, farming would be at a stop.

Ninety-one years ago, at the time of the last Rebellion, the scanty crops raised at Dunino could scarcely find market. There was no wheat, and the oats were kept for support of the family ; the barley or rather bear was given, the one-half for rent, and the other half of the rent was paid by cattle. One-fourth of the bear was given in kind to the brewer in the parish, for beer to the family, and the other fourth was sold for cash either to him, or to some of the thirty-three brewers in St Andrews, to buy gin or brandy, which then and long after, were delivered in large quantities from contraband ships on the coast. What clothes the family of the farmer required were manufactured by themselves. A great part of business was transacted by barter.

*Plantations.*—The plantations in the parish, wherever formed, are prosperous. Those beside the two streamlets consist of a variety of hard-wood trees. The other plantations are of larch or Scotch fir. Some parts of the plantations have of late been cut down ; but it is hoped they will soon be replaced by a new stock.

*Valued Rent.*—The valued rent of Stravithy estate is somewhat larger than that of Dunino apart from Balcaithly, to which it is now united ; so that in the 7th of Charles II., the property must have been superior. It fell in the rear by Sir William Areskine's improvements ; but the active skill of the present proprietor has well nigh raised it to its former pre-eminence,—though the soil be often less grateful than that of Dunino estate, which is sandy or alluvial,—whereas the other is in many places rather a stiff clay. The proprietor of Dunino deserves praise for the handsome accommodation he has afforded, and is still affording, to his tenantry, and the proprietor of Stravithy for his flourishing plantations, the drainage of his fields, and the handsome cottages he has erected, for the servants of his principal tacksman. The proprietor of Kinaldy, on the northern part of his estate, separated from this parish only by a rivulet, has erected a splendid establishment of farm buildings.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Dunino possesses good public roads, and near markets. There



is a turnpike road crossing the parish from St Andrews to Anstruther, which are both sea-ports—and have both a weekly market for grain—the distance from four to five miles. Yearly, there are 15 horse and black-cattle fairs, within seven miles. We are surrounded by post-offices; one is within three, another four, and another five miles. Other three post-offices are within seven miles. There is a curricule which plies thrice a week across the parish, from Anstruther to St Andrews. From St Andrews to Cupar, the county town, a distance of eleven miles, two coaches run weekly; in a like space, they go twice to Dundee, the same distance as Cupar. The fuel used in the parish is coal, which may be found sea-borne at either of the adjacent towns above-mentioned, or at the coal mines in the interior of the country, not more distant than those towns.

*Inns.*—There are two inns in the parish, which are sources of no intemperance.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The stipend of Dunino was augmented in 1709. About forty-two years ago, Dr Brown, then incumbent, received a considerable addition. The former and present minister received also an augmentation, and the living, beside the stipend victual payable by the fiars, includes 63 old Scotch bolls, half oatmeal and half barley, at L. 85, 13s. 1d. of surrendered teind, which, with a manse and offices erected about fifteen years ago, and 23 acres of glebe, may amount to L. 260 a year. The present incumbent, Mr Roger, is the eighth minister of the parish since 1697, when Mr Knox, a relative of the great Reformer, John Knox, was inducted into office. The church of Dunino was built in 1826, and is a neat Gothic edifice, with an altar-window in the west gable. It contains thirty-two pews, designed for six sitters in each, but might hold seven, in all 224. The area in the church has been divided by the sheriff as under:—The patron, the United College of St Andrews, had the first choice, the minister next, and the heritors according to their valued rent. The parochial schoolmaster has a pew, and all the other pews are proportionally annexed to the estates, and divided among the farmers and their dependents, excepting eight pews in front of the pulpit and adjoining, which are let by the kirk-session, and these form the sacred tables at the communion season. The number of communicants generally is from 130 to 160; but upwards of 200 have been known to communicate. The church is centri-

cally situated; and there are but two or three families of Se-ceders.

*Poor's Funds.*—The poor's revenue at Dunino requires no long recital. There is but a single pauper on the kirk-session fund, at 2s. a-month; but the heritors have, since autumn 1834, contributed, according to their valued rent, L. 6, 4s. 5d. to support other four paupers, at 2s. or 3s. a-month each, as circumstances require, with an additional boon out of this sum to buy coals. The kirk-session fund consists of the following items: a small sum for church seat-rent; a tax on the use of the mortcloth, and the proclamation of marriage banns; penalty on illegitimate births in certain cases (and two illegitimate births occur perhaps twice in three years;) the proceeds from collections at the church door, and from money deposited at interest,—forming a small total annually of about L. 9, 8s. 7d. From this little capital fall to be paid, besides the pauper, the session-clerk, precentor, kirk-officer, the synod and presbytery clerk, and presbytery officer. Thus the provision for the poor, and for the whole kirk-sessional business of the parish, does not exceed L. 15, 13s. a-year.

*Education.\**—There has never been but one parochial school in

\* According to the parish register in the year 1643, a declaration was issued by the Presbytery of St Andrews, to be published in every parish within their bounds, and which was confirmed by the General Assembly, the tenor whereof follows: "That the woful ignorance, rudeness, stubbornness, incapacity seen among the common people, proceed from want of schools in landward, and not putting bairns to school where they are—therefore it is ordained that all possible means be used, that there be a school in every congregation, and that where there is one already, every one that hath children put them to school, if past seven years old—if the parents be poor, that the kirk-session take order for paying the schoolmaster either out of the poor's box, or by a quarterly collection—but if the parents be able, then let them be obliged both to send their bairns when the session gives order, and not to remove them till the Session be acquainted." In the spirit of this wise declaration, it is said in the register, that "Tuesday, 6th June 1643, the minister, with the heritors of the parish and elders of the session, did convene at the kirk: there was lent out of the box for advancement to Mr James Richardstone, reader, for bypast service, 108 merks," (that is, L. 6, Sterling:) "As also it was ordained that Mr James should beginne his school on Moonday next, and that he should have a hundredth pound a year," (that is, L. 8, 6s. 8d. Sterling,) "and that the same should be payed to him at two terms in the yeir, viz. Whitsunday and Martinmasse." Whatever the school fees were, this was a handsome salary; for, being twenty-four years before the seventh year of Charles II., when the valued rent taken by Cromwell was confirmed as the standard of valuation, the L. 100 Scotch in the parish might be equal to L. 1400 Scotch now, or L. 116, 13s. 4d. After the act passed in the reign of William III. 1696, "settling a school in every parish not already provided, by advice of the heritors and minister," leaving out the kirk-session,—Mr Dick was schoolmaster of Dunino for twenty years, from 1698 to 1718, whose salary was the maximum then allowed by law, or L. 11 2s. 2½d. Supposing his salary twelve times the present nominal amount, it would reach to L. 133, 6s., that is L. 16, 12s. 8d. more than Mr Richardstone's. In addition to this, provisions during Mr Dick's time were generally cheap, and his school fees enormous. Though in 1698, according to the Fife fiars register, the oatmeal a



the parish. It is centrically situated, and but a few yards from its original site. The scale of fees, formed in 1805, has been continued to the present schoolmaster, who succeeded his brother, the author of "Anster Fair." His salary is the maximum; and this, with L. 3, as session-clerk, dues on proclamation of banns of marriage, granting certificates of character to those removing from the parish, and keeping the register of births—added to the school fees, and a neat new dwelling house and garden, may amount to L. 60 a year. There is nobody in the parish above seven years old, untaught to read; and there are but few grown up persons who cannot also write. The desire of knowledge is ardent. There are several copies of the Bible in every house. Some new publications visit the parish; and at present there are read in it weekly nine different newspapers.

*November 1837.*

boll was 15s. Sterling, during the rest of his incumbency, the price of it ran from 3s. 4d. to 11s. 8d. Sterling a boll; butcher meat sold at 1½d. per pound; and a tailor wrought at 2d. a day. The parish register shows that the lowest quarter fee then was 1s. 3d., which would have required the pay of more than seven and a half days of an ordinary tradesman, or 9s. 4½d at present, which in most cases would be equal to a prohibition of attending school. In 1805, two years after the new act in favour of parochial schoolmasters was framed, a schoolmaster of Dunino, a licentiate of the Scottish church, qualified not only to teach the ordinary branches of education, but French, Latin, Greek, and Hebrew, had the school fees raised to him, which had declined by the gradual influx of money into the kingdom. The quarter fee for English reading was made 2s.; for writing, 3s.; for arithmetic, 3s. 6d.; and for Latin, 4s.

# PARISH OF KENNOWAY.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID BELL, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE village of Kennoway, which in all probability gave its name originally to the parish so called, is built along the top of a ridge which forms the head of a very sweet little glen, or den, as it is commonly called. Of this situation, the name Kennoway, as derived from the Gaelic language; is said to be exactly descriptive: *Kean-nan-uiagh*, signifying “the head of the den.”

The parish of Kennoway is, in figure, nearly an oblong; extending about 3 miles from east to west; and upwards of 2 from south to north. It is bounded on the south and west, by the parish of Markinch; on the north, by that of Kettle; and on the east, by that of Scoonie.

*Topographical Appearances.*—In its general aspect, the parish of Kennoway is a sloping bank, ascending from south to north: having the surface abundantly and beautifully diversified, however, by irregular and gently rising heights, and corresponding declivities. “The prospect from almost every part,” as is accurately remarked in the former Statistical Account of the parish, “is extensive and beautiful; commanding a distinct view of the Island of May, of the Bass Rock, of Inchkeith, of the shipping on the Forth, of the coast south of the Forth, from Dunbar to the west of Edinburgh, including the Lammermoor hills,” and part of the Pentlands. “From the north part of the parish, which reaches the top of the bank, there is one of the most extensive views imaginable, taking in not only the fore-mentioned prospect to the south, but comprehending almost all Fife, and a great part of the counties of Angus, Perth, and Stirling, and of the Grampian mountains.” In the cot-house of Lalathan, situated on nearly the most elevated point of the ridge, is said to be the highest hearth-stone in the county.

*Meteorology.*—The mean temperature of the atmosphere, taken at ten o'clock, A. M. for six successive years, is as under:—



1831, mean temperature	53°.6	1834, mean temperature,	55° 3
1832,	52 .9	1835,	54 .5
1833,	53 .1	1836,	53 .3

*Climate.*—The climate is, on the whole, far from being unpropitious. The atmosphere is, for the most part, mild and dry; the harvests are earlier than the general average of the county; and the healthiness of the situation has been long noted and abundantly experienced.

*Hydrography.*—A few small rivulets or burns, some of which intersect the parish in different directions, while others form considerable portions of its boundaries, are the only water scenery of which it can boast. None of them are of any note:—but that which entering the parish on the north, near Balnkirk, and following a circuitous course, till it meets another little stream on the south-east boundary, at the hamlet of Kennoway-burns,—whence thus augmented, it proceeds about a mile to the southward, to fall into the Leven,—is worthy of special mention. It is so, from this circumstance, that, passing close to the village of Kennoway, its banks there are high, winding, and beautifully diversified; in some places steep and rocky, jutting out into rugged points, which bring the opposite sides into near contact; in other places, more sloping, and of course leaving a wider space between; and everywhere, finely covered with wood. The channel of the stream at this place, with the enclosure formed by its elevated banks, receives the name of the *den*, which, though not on a large scale, is certainly a piece of scenery possessing many features of great beauty.

*Mineralogy.*—The south part of the parish is incumbent upon freestone rock of a soft quality, which dips towards the south-east. Upon the high ground, on the north part of the parish, the soil is incumbent on a ridge of whinstone, which lies in the direction nearly east and west.

The soil is of various qualities, and mostly all arable. On the south and east, it is principally light fertile land; in the centre, it is loam and clay, upon a retentive subsoil; and on the north, upon the rising ground, there is a small proportion of dry loam, incumbent upon the whinstone rock.

This whinstone, at various points, has been quarried and used for building; but more commonly for road-metal. Freestone to a trifling extent is wrought in the den, also for the purposes of building; but it is coarse and soft, and apt to moulder down, when exposed to the weather.

There are some beds of red *keel* found in the den; and they

have been occasionally worked ; but, being only two inches thick, and not affording an adequate remuneration, nothing has been done in them for a number of years past.

On the western boundary of the parish, there is a patch of peat-moss ; and towards the eastern boundary, beds of coal at various depths are found, some of which have been wrought, with scarcely any intermission, for nearly fifty years past. The line of dip of the strata lies in the form of a crescent. Towards the east of the coal-field, it dips to the south-east, and towards the west, it approaches to south-west. The dip of the strata is about one foot in twelve. Slips or fissures, generally running in a straight direction from east to west, are found frequently to interrupt the seams of coal, throwing them up or down to a distance, varying from a few inches to eight feet.

The following journal shows the metals with their depths respectively, which have been gone through to reach the seams of coal at present wrought, lying upwards of fifty-four fathoms from the surface.

	<i>Fath.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>In.</i>		<i>Fath.</i>	<i>Feet.</i>	<i>In.</i>
Surface and clay, .	1	5	0	Coal VI. .	0	1	4
Bands, .	1	4	0	Blaes, .	0	1	2
Freestone, .	0	3	0	Bands, .	0	2	2
Bands, .	0	3	0	Grey freestone, .	2	0	0
Blaes with coal, .	1	5	0	Hard bands, .	0	2	11
Dark stone, .	1	0	0	Dark blaes, .	1	0	5
Coal I. .	0	0	6	Bands, .	0	0	6
Bands, .	0	2	6	Hard gray freestone, .	0	3	10
Coal II. .	0	2	2	White freestone, .	9	2	8
Bands, .	0	2	4	Black bands, .	0	0	4
Freestone, .	3	0	0	White bands, .	3	0	5
{ Coal III. .	0	0	6	Blue blaes, .	0	3	5
{ Black stone, .	0	0	8	Blaes and bands, .	2	2	4
{ Coal IV. .	0	1	4	Blaes, .	1	1	2
Bands, .	1	0	6	Bands, .	0	5	3
Coal V. .	0	0	5	Hard white bands, .	0	0	3
White bands, .	0	1	0	Dark bands, .	0	2	1
White freestone, .	0	3	9	Soft blaes, .	0	2	6
Blaes, .	0	1	0	Dark bands, .	0	1	2
Dark freestone, .	2	0	8	White bands, .	1	1	5
White freestone, .	1	1	1	Gray bands, .	0	1	9
Bands, .	0	4	1	Soft blaes with coal, .	0	1	10
Blaes with bands, .	0	4	0	Freestone, .	2	3	10
Dark blaes, .	0	2	6	Bands, .	0	2	5
Bands, .	1	1	4	Hard blaes, .	0	1	6
Freestone, .	1	0	4	{ Coal VII. .	0	4	2
Bands, .	0	2	1	{ Grey stone, .	0	0	9
Blaes, .	0	1	0	{ Coal VIII. .	0	1	0
White freestone, .	3	0	0				

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Literary Production.*—A rare and very curious work, “ Comprehending a Chronicle of the most remarkable events in Scotland, particularly in Fife, from 1649 to 1671, and containing va-



luable genealogical notices of almost every family of note in this part of the country," has been generally ascribed to a Mr John Lamont, proprietor of Easter Newton in this parish. The work was first published in 1810, by the late Mr Constable, under the title of "The Chronicle of Fife." Another edition was printed at Edinburgh in 1830, under the title of "The Diary of Mr John Lamont of Newton." In the prefatory notice to this second edition, doubts are expressed as to whether the author of the Diary "possessed the small property of Newton, in the parish of Kennoway," as Mr Constable had stated, and as has generally been supposed: and we are sorry to say, as detracting from the little literary fame, to which the parish, through this channel, might be conceived to be entitled, that, on instituting an inquiry into the matter, by a careful perusal of the kirk-session records, and by reference to the inventory of the titles of Easter Newton, now the property of Miss Balfour of Kingsdale, the doubts that have been entertained are too well founded.\*

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Mrs D. Bethune, of Balfour, who is proprietor of the lands of Kennoway and Treanton; Miss Lundin, proprietor of Auchtermairnie and Gallowhill; General Balfour of Balbirnie, proprietor of Lalathan and Dalguinch; Miss Balfour, proprietor of Kingsdale; C. M. Christie, Esq. of Durie, proprietor of Drummaird; Miss Wallace, proprietor of Newton Hall; J. B. Fernie, Esq. proprietor of Kilmux; Mrs Paston of Barnslee, proprietor of the lands of Brunton; Mr

\* Through the kindness of Messrs Stevenson and Yule, W. S. Edinburgh, a friend to whom we applied was permitted to inspect the inventory of the titles of Easter Newton; and we learn from him, that the first writ in this inventory is a charter of Adjudication and Novodamus, by James Law of Brunton (the superior of Easter Newton) of those lands, to John Lamont, skipper in Largo, who took infeftment thereon, and recorded the same in the general Record, 1st October and 26th November 1695. This was evidently the first proprietor of Easter Newton of the name of Lamont, as the former owner of the lands was Euphemia Durie, widow of the Rev. Robert Mercer, minister of Kennoway. The next proprietor after the said John Lamont, in the course of the progress, is James Lamont, his eldest son.

Now that John Lamont, who thus first became proprietor of Easter Newton in 1695, and was succeeded in the property by his son, James Lamont, could not be the author of a Diary which had commenced, if not earlier, at least in 1649, is evident from the particulars which follow. In the register of marriages and births of this parish, the marriage of John Lamont of Newton to Mary Lundin is recorded in 1697; and again the marriage of John Lamont of Newton Easter to Margaret Watson, is recorded in 1698; subsequently, the baptisms of eight children, the fruit of this second marriage, are recorded, the youngest named Robert being baptised on the 10th January 1715; and so late as in 1733, a silver communion cup, as the inscription on it bears, was presented to the parish of Scoonie, by Mr John Lamont of Newton.

A comparison of the dates must satisfy every one that John Lamont, author of the Diary, could not be the person of the same name who was proprietor of Easter Newton in this parish.

Ballingall, proprietor of Balnkirk ; Patrick Wright, Esq. proprietor of Halfields ; George Forbes, Esq. proprietor of Balgrie ; John Lawson, Esq. of Carriston, &c.

*Parochial Register.*—The date of the earliest entry in the parochial register, is supposed to be in 1634. The figures after *anno* at the top of the page have been removed through decay of the paper ; but an entry, about half way down the same page, bearing the date 1635, is perfectly distinct. After this, on a subsequent page, comes July 1638 ; and though the book in which these dates are found, is not in a state of very good preservation, yet the details of the transactions of the kirk-session, given with great minuteness, and often showing an extreme degree of vigilance and rigour in the exercise of authority, may be gathered from the last-mentioned date, with few, if any exceptions, continuously down to December 1675. From this time, however, to 1690, a period of about fifteen years, there is an entire blank ; and the same thing occurs between 1755 and 1761. From this last date, up to the present time, the records are entire.

What could have occasioned the blanks above referred to, it is impossible to say determinately : but the probability is, that the minutes had been originally kept, and that the books which contained them have been lost : for the volumes preserved are filled with minutes of transactions in regular succession, and the blanks occur in both cases between the conclusion of one volume and the commencement of another.

*Mansion-Houses.*—The only mansion houses in the parish are those of Auchtermairnie, Kingsdale, and Newton Hall ; of which the two last-mentioned are modern buildings ; and the materials employed in their construction were brought from neighbouring parishes.

### III.—POPULATION.

In the former Statistical Account of the parish, written in 1793, it is remarked, that the number of the people and houses seems to have been nearly the same for centuries ; and in regard to the village of Kennoway, containing about one-half of the whole inhabitants, it is observed, that “ very few houses were known to have been built on a new foundation.” The population of the parish at that time, seems to have amounted to nearly 1300.

Within the last forty years, however, the village and parish, retaining nearly the same relative proportion in point of numbers, have made a very considerable increase of their population. In the



village many new feus on ninety-nine years leases have been obtained and built on, principally along a new section of the line of road leading this way from Kirkcaldy to Cupar :—and in other parts of the parish, the number of dwelling-houses has been gradually enlarged, chiefly in the same way.

The increase of population adverted to has been owing principally, it is presumed, to the gradually improving condition of this part of the country in general; and may, perhaps, be in some measure assigned to the establishment and growing prosperity of several manufactories in the near neighbourhood. A number of individuals find constant work at Cameron Distillery, and the Haugh Spinning-mill, which are both in Markinch parish; and the extensive manufacture of linens carried on, by wealthy individuals and companies, in most of the surrounding district, supplies the weavers, of whom there are a great many here, with regular employment.

The amount of population at each census, taken at different periods under the direction of Parliament, is as follows :

In the year 1801,	1466
1811,	1517
1821,	1649
1831,	1721 *

It is worthy of notice that, at the time of this last census, the number of males exceeded that of females by 9; there being of the former 865, and of the latter 856.

Of the population residing in villages, there were at the same time in that of Kennoway, 862; in that of Star, 232; and in that of Baneton, 125; making in all 1219; and in the country there were 502.

The average of baptisms for these last five years may be stated at	45
deaths,	29
marriages,	14
The number of families in the parish at last census was,	409
The average number of individuals in each family was,	4½
Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	110
trade, manufactures, or handicraft,	158
All others,	141
Number of professional or other educated men is,	7

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, is 10, of whom only three are at present resident in the parish.

\* This number of 1721, ought to have been increased, we presume to think, by 234, the amount of population on the lands of Dalguinch, &c., in the west end of the parish, which are an annexation *quoad sacra* to Markinch. The census of population by order of Government is unquestionably a purely civil matter; and, therefore, the whole of the inhabitants of the parish *quoad civilia*, ought to have been stated:—the more especially as the population on the lands of Duniface, in Markinch parish, which are an annexation *quoad sacra* to Kennoway, was also included in the Markinch lists.

Of fatuous individuals there are 4 ; of blind, 2 ; and of deaf and dumb, 7. Of the last mentioned class, 5 belong to the same family, viz. two sons and three daughters. The family, in all, consists of three sons and four daughters, all of whom are of adult age.

Illegitimate births in the course of the last three years, 13.

*Character of the People.*—The people, in their general habits, are industrious, cleanly, and economical ; and their circumstances are, for the most part, comfortable. In behaviour, the great bulk of them are worthy of commendation, as being sober, peaceable, decorous, and upright. Some few exceptions have, no doubt, always existed ; and these have of late years, it is to be feared, been very considerably increased. Drunken brawls, and acts of wanton mischief, committed during the night by persons under the excitement of spirituous liquors, have, for a few years past, been frequent and outrageous beyond all former precedent in the history of the place ; and at this moment, a general movement is making by the respectable part of the community, to put an end, if possible, to such things, by having the perpetrators of them uniformly prosecuted and punished ;—to take steps towards which, individuals who have been aggrieved have hitherto felt a great reluctance. The grand remedy, if it could be applied, would be to lay a restriction on the improper use of ardent spirits. Drunkenness is certainly the prevailing vice amongst us ; and is the originator, or at least inciting cause, to almost every mischief. Imprisonment for violent assault under its influence has of late been in two instances inflicted.

“ A considerable proportion of the inhabitants of this parish,” says a discerning and impartial observer, who has lived long amongst them, the Rev. Dr Fraser, “ appear to me to discover their own share of Scottish acuteness and intelligence. I have often seen evidence also of their readiness to assist each other ; particularly by personal service, in times of affliction.”

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres in the parish, standard imperial measure, may be stated at 3750. Of these, 3470 are under the plough ; 30 have never been cultivated, remaining constantly waste or in pasture ; and 250 are under wood. Larch and Scotch firs are the kinds of trees that have generally been planted ; but enough of hard-wood of various kinds has been here and there interspersed, to prove by its healthy and vigorous growth that the soil is congenial to its produce.



*Rent of Land.*—The rent of land varies from 15s. to L. 3. The average may amount to L. 1, 10s. per imperial acre. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow is about L. 3. Till of late, there were few or no sheep in the parish; but Mr Robert Ballingall, an intelligent and enterprising farmer, who is tenant both of Wester Treeton and of Newton of Kingsdale, has, within these two years, introduced them, and has at present a flock of between 13 and 14 scores.

*Wages.*—The wages of the best day-labourers, until about six months ago, when they were considerably raised, had continued for eight or ten years past, both in winter and summer, at 1s. 4d. a day. Masons' and wrights' wages, during the same period, varied from 12s. to 14s. a week, in summer, and from 10s. to 11s. in winter. The wages of farm-servants have continued, for a long time, very stationary. Married men of this description receive from L. 9 to L. 10 in money,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, a pint of milk a day, as it comes from the cow, 8 bolls of potatoes, a free house and garden, and coals driven. Young or unmarried men receive from L. 9 to L. 11 in money; and get their meals in the farm-house. When these latter are in a bothie, they receive  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, and a pint of sweet milk a day. Women employed in farm-work receive from 7d. to 8d. per day of nine hours.

The cattle reared in the parish are generally the native breed of the county. The chief characteristics of the Fife breed are their being mostly all black, with white horns, rather long in the legs, long and straight in the back, with broad hooks; their having a fine silky skin, and prominent eyes. They are generally kindly feeders; and are much esteemed by the butcher for the excellent quality of the beef, as well as for the great quantity of tallow to the size of the carcase. The cows are for the most part profitable milkers; producing a great quantity of butter from the milk.

Some attempts have been made to improve the Fife breed by crossing the cow with a Teeswater bull. The offspring of this cross are nearly as valuable at three years old, as the pure Fife breed is at four. They are more easily fattened, and when kept till five years old, they are as heavy as the pure Teeswater breed at the same age.

The crops generally cultivated are wheat, barley, oats, potatoes, and turnip, with a small proportion of beans. The rotations com-

monly observed vary according to the nature of the soil. Upon the stronger soils, the following are practised: Summer fallow, wheat, beans, barley, hay, oats. Summer fallow or potatoes, wheat, hay, pasture, oats. Summer fallow, wheat, barley, hay, oats.

Upon the lighter soils, the following are in use: viz. turnips or potatoes, barley or wheat, hay, pasture, oats. Turnips or potatoes, barley or wheat, pasture, pasture, oats.

The high prices during the late war gave a stimulus to the improvement of the soil; and at this day, the exertions of the tenantry have by no means slackened. Although suffering much, as they have done for a number of years past, from the very low state of the market, yet it appears as if their utmost efforts have been used to raise an increased quantity of produce, so as to indemnify themselves for the depression of price. By the improvements that have been thus introduced, the fertility of the soil has been much increased. It can safely be averred, that now a fourth more produce is raised from the soil than was obtained twenty years ago. This has been chiefly brought about by improved rotations of cropping, by draining and liming, and by the use of artificial manures, such as ground bones and rape dust.

The drainage of the soil, hitherto, has been accomplished in most cases by deep drains cut across the field at the top of the spring; but a new system has now been put into practice, which, if properly executed upon that portion of the parish which lies on a retentive sub-soil, will very much increase its value, and render it fit to carry all kinds of green crops. This new system, which is called the frequent-drain system, has been borrowed from Mr Smith of Deanston. It is executed by cutting small drains up every six or every twelve ell furrow, as occasion requires, from two and a-half to three feet deep, with small spades used for the purpose. At the top, the drains are of the width of a common spade; and at the bottom, the small spade is used to cut them out four inches wide; and a scoop finishes the process, by clearing out the loose earth at the bottom. The drains are, after this, filled to within eighteen inches of the surface, with stones broken to the size of road-metal; and these stones are then covered with a turf. After the field has been gone over with these drains, it is ploughed by a trenching skeleton plough, sixteen inches deep,—which opens the hard sub-soil below, and allows the water to percolate to the drains, so that the land is rendered perfectly dry.



Farms are generally let on lease for a period of nineteen years. The farm-buildings, with few exceptions, are by no means commodious. In too many instances, the occupier is fettered for want of sufficient accommodation for his bestial. Most of the land in the parish is inclosed, but many of the fences are by no means substantial. A very excellent and commodious steading was built in 1832, by Miss Balfour on her farm of Newton of Kingsdale. It is built of freestone, and covered with slate. The thrashing-machine is propelled by a high-pressure steam-engine of six horse power. There is another thrashing-machine propelled by steam power in the parish, on the farm of Wester Treaton, the property of Mrs D. Bethune of Balfour.

The greatest improvement which has recently been made in the parish, in agricultural matters, was executed by the late Captain Lundin on his estate of Auchtermairnie. By cutting ditches and planting hedges,—by draining and liming,—by removing embankments and levelling,—by planting and transplanting trees,—by building steadings and making roads, he nearly doubled the value of his property in the course of sixteen years. The appearance, also, of his estate in this time, was improved, perhaps, more than any other part of the county of a similar extent.

This gentleman, whose many virtues, both private and public, will render his memory long dear, died in the prime of life, after an illness of only a few days, in the month of November 1832.

*Coal Mine.*—It has been mentioned, that, in the eastern part of the parish, coal at different depths is found, and that it has been wrought with little intermission, for nearly fifty years past. The seams which have hitherto been chiefly dug are those marked No. III. and IV. in the journal before given. These seams were latterly wrought on what is called the long-wall method. After leaving sufficient pillars at the pit-bottom, every inch of coal, with the interjacent bed of black stone, was cut out progressively forward, and the whole superincumbent strata allowed to crush towards the stone or rubbish taken from the coal, which was used for gobbing the excavation. This coal was laid dry by a day-level of 350 fathoms in length.

The seams above-specified having been nearly wrought out, the proprietor of the mine, J. B. Fernie, Esq. of Kilmux, a gentleman of great enterprise, well known, especially, as an eminent agriculturist, and to whom the writer of this account is indebted for the information he supplies, both in regard to coal and agricultural

matters,—has lately sunk a pit to a depth of more than 54 fathoms, where coal, marked VII. and VIII. in the journal, is found to the thickness of 5 feet 2 inches, with an interjacent bed of grey-stone 9 inches thick. To draw the water from this pit, an engine of forty-seven horse power has been erected. The coal, which has now been wrought for several months, is found to be of good quality, and it is believed that the field is extensive. There are at present between 40 and 50 colliers employed.

*Raw Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish may be stated as under:

Produce of grain of all kinds, for food of man and beast,	L. 9000	0	0
potatoes and turnips,	1000	0	0
hay cultivated,	700	0	0
land in pasture,	1200	0	0
mines and quarries, chiefly coal,	2500	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce,	L. 14,400	0	0
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*Manufactures.*—Besides two grinding-mills for oats and barley in the parish, there is also a lint-mill for scutching flax, a plash-mill for washing yarn, and a spinning-mill for spinning tow. The three last-mentioned are on a very small scale, employing together not more than 18 or 20 hands. All the mills are driven by water.

At the time when the former Statistical Account was written, it is remarked, that there was then, “a considerable quantity of coarse linen made in the parish, which was sold brown; and some also of a better quality, which was bleached and sold at the summer markets in the neighbourhood.” This species of goods was commonly known by the name of *Silesias*, and there were not a few individuals in this place who, in a small way, were engaged in the manufacture of them. The trade was for a long time brisk and profitable, but it entirely failed on the introduction of mill-spinning, through the consequent great reduction on the price of manufactured goods.

There are still a great many weavers in the parish, not fewer than 300 male and female, connected with whom, at least 150 hands more, find employment as winders. But the business now is all transacted by agencies, on account of wealthy manufacturing companies or individuals in the surrounding district. There are none in this parish.

The species of goods now manufactured are dowlas sheetings of various widths, from three yards and under, Tweels, and a few diapers and Darlingtones. The quality varies from 700 to 1000 dowlas. The number of spindles woven in a year may be stated



at 68,000 ; and the average wage of each weaver at 7s. a week :— but a good and diligent worker will, without difficulty, make twice that sum.

There are not fewer than 69 hands employed as shoemakers in the parish. The produce of their joint labour is of course much more than is requisite for meeting the wants of the neighbourhood ; and the surplus is, for the most part, carried to the adjacent market-towns, chiefly to Dundee, to supply the shoe-shops. A small proportion is also disposed of at the principal fairs in the neighbourhood.

*Reed Society.*—The operative weavers of Kennoway, or at least the great majority of them, sensible of the advantages that might be derived from having the use of an extensive and proper assortment of reeds ; after having been, for a number of years, members of a society in the neighbourhood, instituted for promoting this object—about three years ago formed themselves into an association for the same purpose, denominated the “ Kennoway Reed Society.” The sole object of this society is to serve its members with reeds of any given order and breadth. It is open at all times for the admission of workmen properly qualified and recommended, who are of good character, and living within two miles of the village of Kennoway. The entry-money is 3s. 6d. for one share, and a member may hold as many shares as he pleases. A certain rate is paid for the use of each reed, according to the description it is of, and according to the amount of spindles it is employed in the weaving of.

This society is found to be of great benefit to its members. Of these, there are 122, holding in all 199 shares. The number of reeds which the society is possessed of, is 560 ; the average price of each of which, when new, might be 5s.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There are no market-towns in the parish, but the access to Kirkcaldy and Cupar is easy, each being about nine miles distant ; the former in a south-westerly, and the latter in a north-easterly direction. The means of communication, in every part of the parish, are easy, the roads being in general good. Of these, there are about two miles of turnpike.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The situation of the parish church, in the village of Kennoway, renders it convenient for by far the greater part of the population ; there being in that village, and within the compass of about half a mile around it, upwards of 1100 inhabi-

tants. The distance of the church from the most remote extremities of the parish is between two and three miles.

The age of the church must, from its structure, and the height to which the surrounding burying-ground has accumulated above its foundation, be very great; but there are no means of ascertaining the exact period at which it was built. The lintel of a door, which is supposed to be of the same date with an addition that had been made to the original edifice, has 1619 inscribed on it. The present state of repair of the church, however, notwithstanding its great age, is exceedingly good. Perhaps it is to be regretted, considering its size, as compared with the population, that it is so good; and that such a sum as nearly L. 200 was expended in putting it into its present comfortable state, so lately as in the summer of 1832. The number of sittings in it is 463; while the number of families belonging to the Establishment in the parish is 238; and that of individuals of all ages 1027. The number of names on the communion roll at present is 507, from which, if 28 be deducted for the old and infirm, who cannot attend church, there is left still the number 479. This exceeds the number of sittings in the church by 16. There are no free sittings.

An excellent and commodious new manse, with offices and garden wall, was built in 1833, on a new and very eligible site, about five minutes walk from the church. The glebe consists of about 7 acres, and may be valued at L. 20 yearly. The stipend, which was augmented in 1832, amounts to 16 chalders, with L. 10 for communion elements.

There are two Seceding congregations in the parish, the places of worship of which are both also in the village of Kennoway. An unpopular settlement about the middle of last century gave occasion to the erection of the elder of these two congregations, which is connected with the United Associate Secession Synod. The present minister of this congregation, who was ordained to his charge upwards of forty-two years ago, is the learned and pious Rev. Donald Fraser, D. D., well known as the biographer of the Erskines, two of the fathers of the Secession, and as the author of other popular works. In his congregation, by particulars which he kindly furnished for this account, the number of members is 428; besides whom, there are of the young with a few other hearers about 290. It is to be noticed, however, that about one-third of the whole reside within the bounds of other parishes. The



amount of stipend is L. 120, with a comfortable dwelling-house and garden.

The other Seceding congregation in the parish, which is in connexion with the Original Burgher Synod, has been in existence since 1800. The number of its members is under 200, of whom about one-half reside within the parish. This congregation is at present without a minister; but the stipend of the one who lately left them for another situation was L. 75, with a dwelling-house and small garden.

There are, besides those attached to these two congregations of Seceders, a very few individuals within the parish, belonging to the Relief and Independent denominations. The proportion which the whole number of Seceders and Dissenters taken together, bears to the number of those attached to the Established Church, is very nearly as 19 to 23. Among all denominations, the places of worship are in general well attended.

*Societies for Religious Purposes.*—A society, denominated the Kennoway Female Bible and Missionary Association, was formed here in 1814; and another, styled the Kennoway Bible and Missionary Association, was instituted in 1819. Their annual proceeds average together rather more than L. 30. All denominations concur in these institutions.

*Education.*—Besides the Parochial School, which is attended on an average by 120 scholars, and is most efficiently taught, there are two unendowed schools in the parish, one of which is a female one:—and the children in the village of Star, in the West end of the parish, enjoy the benefit of a school which is taught just beyond the boundary. There are thus very few who can be said to be inconveniently situated with respect to the means of education. The parochial teacher has the maximum salary, with the legal accommodations. The amount of his school fees may be between L. 30 and L. 40.

The list of fees for the parochial school is as under: English reading, 2s. 6d. per quarter; reading and writing, 3s. per do.; arithmetic, 4s.; Latin and other branches, 5s.

*Library.*—The only circulating library in the parish, is a juvenile one connected with the Sabbath schools. It contains about 400 volumes, which are mostly very small.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank was instituted for the parish and its vicinity in September 1834; the business of which has ever since been conducted principally by the writer of this Ac-

count. The amount of sums under L. 10, deposited up till this date, is L. 420 ; and the number of depositors at present is 83. Since the bank was opened, sixteen sums of L. 10 each, amounting in all to L. 160, have been removed at various times ; and the most, if not the whole of them, lodged in other banks. The National Bank of Scotland, at whose office in Kirkcaldy the money belonging to our savings' bank collectively is lodged, most generously allows L. 4 per cent. interest on it ; and the same rate is allowed to the depositors in the savings' bank individually ; the interest in this latter case being calculated for pounds only, omitting odd shillings ; and for months, omitting odd days.

*Equitable Deposit Society.*—A society was begun in May 1835, entitled the Kennoway Equitable Weekly Deposit Society, each member of which pays 1s. weekly. When a sufficient sum has in this way been collected, four shares of L. 30 each are drawn by ballot, and those receiving them give security that they will pay 4 per cent. interest thereon, in addition to continuing their weekly payments, until such time as all the members shall have drawn their shares respectively. The sum collected from the commencement of the association to the 26th December 1836, amounted to L. 882, 18s. 2d.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 22 ; and the sum allotted to each per calendar month varies from 2s. 6d. to 8s. 8d. The average annual amount of contributions, for the last five years, for the relief of the poor, has been L. 77 ; of which, L. 34 have been collected at the church door ; L. 5 have come from mortcloth and marriage dues ; and the remainder has been obtained by voluntary assessment of the heritors.

For a considerable number of years past, a sum of between L. 30 and L. 40 has been raised in addition to the above, by extraordinary collections at the doors of the church and meeting-houses, and by donations from non-resident heritors, for the purpose of distributing about new-year time, amongst individuals and families of the poorer class, but who are not generally on the poor's roll, a quantity of coals and meal, and occasionally some other little necessary. By help of this fund also, for several years past, the spinning of flax has been obtained for some of the old people, who can find no other employment. Dressed flax is at present kindly supplied, as needed, by a mill-spinner in the neighbourhood, who allows 6d. per spindle for spinning it. To this



the fund adds another 6d., so that the spinner receives 1s. for her work, while the fund loses 6d. on each spindle. The sum earned in this way, by even a good spinner, is very small; but whatever it may amount to, it is the fruit of labour, and it is prized as such.

*Fairs.*—Two annual fairs are held in the village of Kennoway, the one in April, and the other in October. No business has for a long time been done at them.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are no less than 13 houses in the parish licensed to sell spirituous liquors and ales. If so many can make profits by such a traffic, there is great reason to fear, that by far too much money is spent in them, and that an increase of intemperance must be the result. The unnecessary multiplication of such places of resort is much to be deprecated; for, besides affording facilities to those who are already addicted to drinking, it sets additional and powerful temptation to the worst of all vices, in the way of those who are sober and industrious.

*Fuel.*—Coal abounds in all the neighbourhood, and after what has been already said in regard to its being found of good quality, and wrought in the parish, it is scarcely necessary to add, that this is the fuel universally used. At Balgrie colliery, in the parish, from which the great majority of the inhabitants are supplied, it is sold at present at 8s. 4d. per ton.

*January 1838.*

## PARISH OF WEMYSS.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN M'LACHLAN, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name and Boundaries.*—THE name of this parish is of Gaelic origin, the word *Weem* or *Wemyss* signifying a cave, manifestly in allusion to the number of caves on the sea-shore. It is bounded by the parish of Dysart, on the west; by Markinch, on the north and east; and by the Frith of Forth, on the south. Its length from south-west to north-east is about 6 miles; and its breadth about  $1\frac{1}{2}$ ; in whole, it contains about 9 square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The ground immediately above the sea-shore is, in some places, considerably elevated, and rises with a gentle slope to the north, and also to the west. Along the sea-shore, there is a line of rocks which extends a good way into the sea, even at low water-mark. The whole beach is very rocky, and may well be designated iron bound.

*Climate.*—The climate, upon the whole, may be said to be good. The air, as might be expected, is, during the winter months especially, keen and bracing, and at all times the temperature of the atmosphere is sensibly felt to be colder than that of districts five or six miles up the country.

*Mineralogy.*—This parish rests upon rocks which belong wholly to the coal formation. From the river Leven, even as far west as Wemyss Castle, the strata are composed of dark red sandstone of various degrees of hardness, colour, and durability. From Wemyss Castle, along the shore and western boundary, there are twelve workable seams of coal, of the aggregate thickness of 89 feet 5 inches. The rocks between these seams of coal are, shale, sandstone, slate clay, and argillaceous iron-stone, in bands and balls. These rocks alternate in beds of very various thickness. There is also a seam of yellow ochre, but not a particle of limestone; neither is there any greenstone (or whin) belonging to the strata. The shore, however, is thickly strewn with boulders of it, and the soil when pierced to any depth abounds with them.

The quantity of fossil organic remains belonging to the vegetable kingdom, is immense. Whole forests of fossil trees have been discovered in the beds of shale immediately above some of the coals, many of them of the most perfect form. The bodies of the trees are always composed of sandstone, (although found in shale,) while the bark, and sometimes the cellular tissue, round the pith, is composed of clear cherry coals; and they are found in every variety of size, form, and position. And with regard to the soils, they are as various as the rocks on which they rest, being in some places only a few feet thick, and consisting of decomposed sandstone, while in others they extend to a depth of from 30 to 40 feet, consisting of a strong matrix of dark-coloured clay, which is quite impervious to water.

*Wood.*—The appearance of the parish within the last forty years has been greatly improved, in consequence of the great number of trees that have been planted in various quarters of it, and which



are in a very thriving condition, and which shelter and benefit the crops. In the neighbourhood of Wemyss Castle, there is a number of very old trees of various kinds, and which have grown to a large size, clearly showing that when trees are properly attended to, they will grow and prosper even near the sea-shore.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Plan.*—There is in the possession of the family of Wemyss an excellent map or survey of the whole of the parish.

*Land-owner.*—The sole land-owner of the whole parish is Captain James Erskine Wemyss, R. N., and Member of Parliament for the county of Fife.

*Eminent Men.*—Under this article may be mentioned Sir Michael Wemyss of Wemyss, who, along with Sir Michael Scott of Balweary, in the parish of Abbotshall, were sent as ambassadors to Norway by the Estates of the kingdom in the year 1290, on the death of King Alexander III. to bring home Princess Margaret, grand-daughter of the late King, and undoubted heiress of the crown of Scotland. They went to Norway as directed, but the Princess died at Orkney, on her passage to Scotland.

There is in the Castle of Wemyss, as a memorial of this embassy, a large silver basin, which was given by the King of Norway to Sir Michael Wemyss, and which is now used to hold the water on baptismal occasions.

The Rev. George Gillespie also was connected with this parish, and was ordained minister of it in April 26, 1618. He was the son of Mr John Gillespie, who was sometime minister of the gospel at Kirkcaldy. He was called by way of distinction, "The renowned Gillespie;" and was the first who was admitted by a presbytery in that period, without an acknowledgment of the bishops. He was one of the four ministers who were sent as commissioners from the Church of Scotland to the Westminster Assembly, in the year 1643. In that capacity we are told he distinguished himself greatly, and showed that he was a man of great talent and learning, so much so, indeed, that few could equal, and none surpass him. On his return from Westminster, he was engaged in most of the public affairs of the church, until 1648, when he was chosen Moderator of the General Assembly. During his whole life, he was most firmly attached to the great work of the Reformation, and continued so till his death.

*Parochial Registers.*—The register of the records of Session commences 1645, and is regularly kept from 9th March 1692,

down to the present time. From 26th August 1689 to 9th March 1692, there is a deficiency, the reason for which is thus noticed in one of the records: "The reason why the public register in this parish is lame for that period, is, that there was no settled minister after Mr Ker was deposed by the secret counsell in the foresaid month of August 1689 untill Mr Archibald Riddell was settled in October 1691;" and that during this interval, "the register was kept by the Countess of Wemyss, and not delivered to the session:" It is farther added "that Mr Ker, student of Divinity and Professor in St Leonard's College, St Andrews, was admitted minister of Wemyss September 8, 1686, and deposed 26th August 1689, for not reading the 'proclamation and not praying publicly for King William and Queen Mary.'" The oldest register of baptisms begins in 1660, and that of contracts and marriages in 1662. With the exception already noticed, they are all regularly and accurately kept from their commencement. The number of the whole is fourteen volumes.

*Antiquities.*—Under this article, we may notice the remains of two Popish Chapels, the one at Methil-mill; and the other, a little beyond West Wemyss. There are also the ruins of an old castle, usually called Macduff's Castle, situated a little to the east of East Wemyss. It is said to have been built by Macduff, who was created Earl of Fife about the year 1057, and on whom King Malcolm Canmore bestowed some peculiar marks of regard. It must have been once a place of great strength, judging from the two square towers, and a part of the wall, that still remain. It is built on an eminence near the sea shore, having a very commanding view; and there are few strangers who come to this part of the country, without paying a visit to the old castle.

The Castle of Wemyss, too, the seat of the family of Wemyss, deserves notice. It is a large and magnificent building. It is situated a little to the east of West Wemyss, on a cliff between 30 and 40 feet above the level of the sea. Beyond West Wemyss, is the Chapel Garden, so denominated from the circumstance of a Roman Catholic Chapel having been built there, some of the remains of which, as already noticed, are still standing. Beside it, is the residence of Thomas Bywater, Esq. factor on the estate. The whole forms a most delightful romantic spot, the sight of which could not but amply compensate the admirer of the picturesque, even although he had gone a journey of twenty or thirty miles, for the sole purpose of visiting this terrestrial paradise.





have great pleasure in being enabled to remark, that over the length and breadth of this large and populous parish, education and knowledge have spread themselves among all ranks and classes. The people as a body have long been distinguished for their quietness and general good conduct ; and may justly be said to be an industrious, contented, decent, and church-going population.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of land varies from L. 1, 10s. to L. 4 per acre. Some farms are let wholly in money, some at a grain rent, and some partly grain and partly money, according to the fiars of the county. The grazing of a cow for the season is L. 3, 10s. ; and for two year olds and one year olds, in the same proportion.

*Real Rent.*—The real rent of this parish is L. 6000.

*Agriculture.*—

The number of Scots acres may be about	4000
Under tillage,	2845½
Uncultivated,	1154½, of
which there are in wood	500 acres, and
the remaining	654½ acres are in <i>links</i> , roads,
villages, &c.	

*Mines.*—There are four coal-pits in this parish, one ironstone pit, and one ochre pit. The Wemyss coal-pit employs 140 men, 24 boys, and 42 girls. The yearly produce is about 40,000 tons. The selling price of the splint is 8s. 6d. per ton. This pit is sunk upon the main seam, which is 9 feet thick, and has been wrought to the depth of 100 yards below sea level, through the whole length of the parish, and has been working constantly for the last two centuries. The next working is the parrot or gas coal, which is wrought level free, no machinery being necessary. It employs about 20 men, and is sold for 10s. per ton. The other two pits are wrought exclusively for land sale ; they employ about 50 men, 20 boys, and 7 girls. The ironstone working employs about 35 men and 3 girls. The ochre pit is but newly commenced. The whole number of people employed in mining and mining operations may amount to 300 men, (170 of whom are colliers,) 44 boys, and 52 girls. Their operations, however, require the employment of many other hands, such as smiths, wrights, masons, &c. They all receive their wages every two weeks, the payment of which is upwards of L. 400.

There are several very powerful engines employed in this very extensive coal establishment. And it is but justice to add, that



all the recent improvements in mining machinery have been here very successfully and advantageously introduced and applied, and are all under the very active and efficient management and direction of Mr David Landale, mining engineer.

*Fisheries.*—This branch of industry deserves notice. The fishing station at Buckhaven is well known, and of late years has greatly increased. There are 170 men employed in this trade, and all belong to, and reside in Buckhaven. They have no fewer than 144 fishing boats of various dimensions. Generally about the beginning of July, they set out to the north, to Helmsdale, Fraserburgh, and Wick, the great herring-fishing stations, where they stay for about two months. It may well be said, that they are a most industrious and hard-working class of men, and are truly entitled, not only to protection, but to every countenance and encouragement.

Value of boats and nets belonging to Buckhaven.

	<i>Value of each boat.</i>	<i>Value of nets belonging to each boat.</i>	<i>Total value.</i>
First class, 60 boats,	L. 75 0 0	L. 110 0 0	L. 11,100 0 0
Second do. 44 do.	40 0 0	120 0 0	7,040 0 0
Third do. 40 do.	14 0 0	20 0 0	1,360 0 0
144		Value of nets and boats.	L. 19,500 0 0

It will be seen by the above statement, that the value of the nets belonging to the second class of boats is greater than that of the first class, because three sets of nets are necessary to the second class, while only two are required for the first and third.

*Produce.*—The following contains a pretty correct statement of the yearly raw produce of this parish.

	<i>Scots acres.</i>	
Grain of all kinds, including peas and beans,	1545½	L. 10,545 0 0
Potatoes and turnips,	416	3,161 0 0
Hay and pasture,	706¼	3,339 0 0
Flax,	38	304 0 0
Gardens,	20	400 0 0
	2725¾	L. 17,749 0 0
Fallow,	119¾	
Under cultivation,	2845½	
Thinning of woods,		500 0 0
60 boats employed in the north herring fishery, }		
44 ' do Frith of Forth do. }		4500 0 0

\* About twenty years ago, the Frith of Forth herring fishing was very extensive, and paid well; but of late years, it has fallen much off, and for two or three years back, it has been a total failure.

40 boats employed throughout the year in fishing haddock, cod, and all other kinds of white fish caught in the Frith of Forth, -	L. 4160	0	0
	L. 26,909	0	0
Salt, - - - - -	470	0	0
Coal and ironstone, - - - - -	20,000	0	0
Total yearly value of raw produce, -	L. 47,379	0	0

*Manufactures.*—The principal manufacture is that of hand-loom weaving, in which both men and women are employed. In the large manufacturing establishment at Kirkland, under the firm of Neilson and Company, there are 109 persons engaged in flax-dressing; 283 employed at the spinning-mill; 48 in the bleaching department; and 241 in the cloth manufactory; in all, 681, including men and women, boys and girls. This large and extensive work is lighted with gas, and is, for plan, and order and regularity, a model for any similar erection. As far as the health and morals of the people are concerned, it is conducted in the best possible manner. It is not only the wish of the proprietors that the work people's children should be properly educated, but they are really and truly so, in all the common branches; and particular attention is also paid to their instruction in the great principles of Christianity, by a well-qualified and efficient teacher. And fewer applications for parochial relief have come from the people employed at this work, than from any other quarter of the parish.

The extensive works now noticed consume annually 1000 tons flax and hemp, from which is spun 280,000 spindles of flax, tow, and hemp yarns, two-thirds of which are made into canvas, sheeting, dowlas, ducks, sacking, and other fabrics; and about one-third of the yarn is sold. The yearly amount of wages may be about L. 17,000.

There are four considerable manufacturers in East Wemyss, and one in Buckhaven, who, it is computed, consume annually 242,320 spindles, which are made into ducks, dowlas, and sheeting, amounting to 1,202,625 yards of cloth for the home and foreign market. Weavers' wages, including winding, may amount to L. 10,000 annually.

East Wemyss was long distinguished for the manufacture of linen, which has, for some time past, been superseded by those above-mentioned.

*Salt.*—Since the tax on salt was taken off, the number of salt pans has been greatly reduced. At Methil, where there were formerly



nine, there are now none ; and at West Wemyss, where there were formerly seven, there are only two, and at present one of them is not working. 6200 bushels may be about the annual average of salt made for the last three years, the average annual value of which may be about L. 470. This forms at once a very striking contrast to the quantity of salt made in this parish, previous to the abolition of the salt duties ;—for in 1818, 1819, and 1820, the annual average sales of salt made at west Wemyss and Methil, was 50,400 bushels. The salt made here is excellent, and obtains a ready market.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns.*—There are no market-towns, properly so called, in the parish. The nearest is Kirkcaldy, which is about six miles from the parish church.

*Villages.*—There are seven villages, which are named as under :  
1. East Wemyss, in which is the parish church ; 2. West Wemyss ; 3. Buckhaven ; 4. Methil ; 5. Kirkland ; 6. West Coaltown ; 7. East Coaltown. The four first are built on the sea-shore, and are rather more than a mile from each other. West Wemyss is a burgh of barony, having for its management two bailies, one treasurer, and a number of councillors. Buckhaven is a large and extensive fishing station. Kirkland is an extensive manufacturing establishment, under the firm of Neilson and Company ; and East and West Coaltowns are inhabited by colliers, and who are all in the employ of Captain Wemyss.

*Means of Communication.*—The turnpike road from Kirkcaldy to Cupar by Kennoway runs through the north part of the parish, and is very good. The other roads, which are kept in repair by means of the statute labour money, have been much improved of late, although they are not by any means so good as they should be.

Although there is no post-office, yet we have every facility for communication, as there is a runner or post-boy from Kirkcaldy to Leven every morning, and again from Leven to Kirkcaldy in the afternoon. There are two carriers in Buckhaven, who go to Kirkcaldy every week, the one on Tuesday and the other on Friday. There is also a carrier in East Wemyss, who goes to Kirkcaldy twice every week, Tuesday and Friday. And there is a woman, who goes every lawful day, carries parcels, and transacts any business with which she may be intrusted.

*Harbours.*—There is a good harbour at Methil. The pier was

considerably injured a good many years ago, by a very violent storm. There is also a good harbour at West Wemyss, for the accommodation of vessels engaged in the coal trade. The erection of a new pier and harbour to be set down at the west end of Buckhaven, was agitated some two or three years ago. Several engineers inspected the ground, and were employed in making a plan of the undertaking; but nothing has, as yet, been done. Could it be carried into effect, it would be of great utility to the fishermen of Buckhaven; and from the eligibility of the site, it could not fail to be a place of resort for boats and ships in distress.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is in East Wemyss, and is as conveniently situated for the great body of the people as it could well be. It is an old building in the form of a cross. The date of its erection cannot be ascertained. It has undergone several repairs; and, although the construction is bad, yet, upon the whole, it is a decent and comfortable place of worship. It has sittings for about 1000 persons. It is by far too small for the parish. From 900 to 1000 communicate annually. The people are very attentive to the ordinances of religion.

The manse was built in 1791, and is a good and commodious house. The offices are also good, and there is a large garden. The glebe consists of 7 acres and 15 falls, Scots measure, and is as excellent land as any in the parish. The stipend is 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, converted at the rate of the highest fiars in the county, with L. 10 for communion elements. There are some rocks and sea-weed or ware, that belong to the cure. Captain James Wemyss is sole heritor. The presentation is in the gift of the Town-Council of Edinburgh.

There is a Dissenting meeting-house in connection with the United Associate Synod, situated on the links of Buckhaven, about two miles from the parish church. The clergyman's stipend is L. 110 per annum, with manse and garden. The present minister is the Rev. Robert Pollock. The congregation is respectable, and divine service is well attended.

The following persons have been ministers of this parish since the Revolution: Archibald Riddell, 1691 to 1697; Thomas Black, 1697 to 1698; James Grierson, 1698 to 1710; John Cleghorn, 1711 to 1744; Harry Spens, 1744 to 1780; William Greenfield, 1781 to 1784; George Gib, 1785 to 1818.

The present incumbent was ordained minister of Alva, presby-



tery of Stirling, 22d April 1813, and translated to Wemyss, 4th February 1819.

*Catechist.*—In 1705, the Earl of Cromarty, out of regard to the memory of Margaret, heiress and Countess of Wemyss, and Countess of Cromarty, mortified a small sum of money for founding a salary to a catechist, for catechising and instructing the colliers and salters and others in the parish of Wemyss. The gift of presentation is in the family of Wemyss; and the presentee is tried and admitted by the minister and kirk-session. The present catechist is the second who has ever been appointed; his salary is L. 50, 16s. 11<sup>8</sup>/<sub>12</sub>d. a year.

The following table contains the census of this parish taken in January and February 1836.

	Population.							Communi- cants.		Sittings held of right.			
	Total.	Under 12.	Under 7.	Establishment	Other denomi- nations.	Not known to belong to any denomination.	Having right to sittings.	Establishment.	Other denomi- nations.	Rented.	In virtue of te- nancy.	Private proper- ty.	By express gra- tuitous grant.
E. Wemyss,	837	227	146	809	26	2	352	372	19	66	3	243	40
Buckhaven,	1475	487	368	550	910	15	551	182	425	466	0	78	7
Methil,	508	166	114	298	178	32	86	123	76	68	0	18	0
Kirkland,	543	146	96	216	316	11	191	84	142	166	0	14	11
W. Wemyss,	939	352	233	865	48	26	156	340	27	39	0	89	28
W. Coaltown,	299	102	61	297	2	0	77	145	2	9	0	46	22
E. Coaltown,	162	64	41	123	39	0	27	50	9	8	8	11	0
Country p.	452	152	112	322	130	0	182	144	59	75	67	25	15
	5215	1696	1171	3480	1649	86	1622	1440	759	897	78	524	123

*Education.*—The parochial school is in East Wemyss. The teacher, who is a licentiate of the church, has the maximum salary, viz. L. 34, 4s. 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d., and L. 1, 15s. 7<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>d., for the want of the legal quantity of garden ground. He is also session-clerk, the perquisites of which may average L. 20 a year. The school fees may amount to L. 25 per annum. All the common branches are taught here, as also Latin, French, and mathematics. There are six other schools in the parish, all unendowed, except the school at Kirkland, which is partially endowed, as the company, besides the school fees, give L. 30 a year by way of salary. Nearly 800 young persons are receiving instruction in various branches of education, at the different schools. And if there are any in the parish above fifteen years of age, or even above ten, who cannot read, the fault lies with the parents. There is an educational machinery in motion that is not surpassed in any parish; and all the teachers, seven

in number, are distinguished for their zeal, and efficiency, and diligence and success, and all, except one, belong to the Established Church.

Under this head, we have to remark that the late Mr Archibald Cook, Kirkcaldy, who died in the beginning of 1832, and who was a native of this parish, left property to a very considerable amount. His widow is liferented in the whole of it, which, after her decease, comes to this parish, and is to be applied solely to educational purposes. During the lifetime of Mrs Cook, the ministers of Dysart, Kirkcaldy, Abbotshall, Leslie, and Wemyss, act as trustees, and have already entered on their office. After her death, the trust devolves on the presbytery of Kirkcaldy.

*Libraries.*—A subscription library was instituted in East Wemyss in 1817, and contains upwards of 300 volumes, consisting of divinity, history, voyages, travels, &c. exclusive of reviews and magazines. There are, besides, three other libraries in the parish. There is one in Buckhaven, one in West Wemyss, and a tradesman's library was lately instituted in East Wemyss.

*Sabbath Schools.*—There are Sabbath evening schools in all the villages, and the young people attending them are accommodated with books, chiefly religious, according to their age and capacity.

*Inns.*—There is no want of inns or alehouses in the parish. Their increase has kept pace with the increase of the population. Men cannot be compelled to be religious; but such a tax can and ought to be put on strong liquor, as would necessarily oblige them to be sober and temperate.

*Friendly Societies.*—There is in this parish the Generous Society, which was instituted in 1793 for sick and aged members. Each member pays 3s. of entry money, and 1s. a quarter, and is not entitled to receive any benefit till he has been six years a member, and paid his quarterly accounts for that period. A member when sick or unable to work at his lawful employment, receives 4s. a week for a limited time. Those on the superannuated list receive 2s. a week for life. This Society has been the means of doing much good to the members, and of preventing pauperism. There is an annual procession of its members. It is modelled or based upon the plan recommended by the Highland Society of Scotland. Its funds are in a flourishing condition, which is a strong evidence of the correctness of the principles on which it is founded.

*Savings Banks.*—A savings bank was established in East Wemyss about thirty years ago. The yearly investment may be about L. 210,



being 80 shares among 66 members, at L. 2, 12s. each. For the last three or four years, about L. 100 per annum have been withdrawn. The investments are made chiefly by the working-classes. The sum on hand is L. 1944. There is also a savings bank at West Wemyss; one at Buckhaven; and one lately established at West Coaltown.

*Poor's Funds.*—Captain Wemyss, the sole heritor of this parish, some years ago wisely agreed to give L. 40 a-year in aid of the funds, in order to avoid a legal assessment. His annual payments, however, have hitherto considerably exceeded that sum.

In 1833 they amounted to	L. 60	0	0
Amount of church collections,	44	19	4½
proclamations,	12	2	3
mortcloths,	1	11	2
fines,	1	5	0
burying-ground and seat rents,	0	16	6
	<hr/>		
	L. 120	14	3½
Of the above sum, there was paid for house rents and occasional charities,	L. 13	7	10
In monthly pensions,	88	1	2
	<hr/>		
	101	9	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 19	5	3½

This sum was applied to the payment of salaries to synod clerk, presbytery clerk, session-clerk, kirk treasurer, and precentor, and incidental expenses. Number of poor on the roll, 40; average allowance to each, L. 2, 10s. 8½<sup>1</sup>/<sub>5</sub>d.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The enlightened and liberal views that have taken place, in all departments of industry, have extended themselves to the cultivation of the soil; and since the publication of the last Statistical Report of this parish, the most approved methods of agriculture have been introduced. The farmers are industrious, intelligent, and persevering, and possess a comprehensive knowledge of husbandry in all its departments. They have spared no expense, and grudged no labour, in order to draw forth, in rich abundance, the capabilities of the ground. They have, accordingly, attended to draining, which has been well and wisely denominated the basis and foundation of all agricultural improvement; and they are more and more impressed with the indispensable necessity of a proper and regular rotation of green cropping, in order that the land may be properly cleaned and prepared for a white or grain crop. There is, therefore, less fallow than formerly, and a greater quantity of potatoes are planted. More live-stock are kept and reared, and a greater quantity of turnips raised. More attention is also paid to liming, which had been hitherto too much ne-

glected, and which never fails to give a new stimulus to soils that had begun to lose their vegetative and productive powers. The great wish and study, in fact, just now is, to have as great a breadth of wheat sown down as possible, because this has been found, for a considerable time past, the best remunerating crop. Great care, however, must be taken not to carry this wish too far, because if it were, it could not fail to have an effect the very reverse of what was intended.

I have only farther to remark, that I know no obstacle or discouragement even to the still greater improvement of the farms in this parish, except one, and that is the great quantity of game that abounds, such as hares, and pheasants, and rabbits, &c. No doubt this great evil has been gradually diminishing for some years past; but still there is plenty of room for farther improvement, which, it is hoped, will not be lost sight of. In every district where game is carefully preserved, and allowed to multiply and increase, no greater bar or obstacle to agricultural improvement can be named.

*N. B.*—Since the above report was written, and given in upwards of a year ago, I have to notice that a post-office has been established in the village of East Wemyss. The new pier and harbour, to which allusion is made in the body of this report, in reference to Buckhaven, are in a state of great forwardness. The expense of this very important undertaking is to be about L. 4200, of which the Board of Fisheries, with that liberality that has always characterized their transactions, are to give about L. 3000, and the fishermen of Buckhaven are to implement the rest. The contractors are the Messrs Mathieson, builders, Glasgow, who, as far as they have gone, have executed the work in a most substantial and efficient manner.

I have also to record, that on the 6th of June last, the foundation stone of a church, in connexion with the Establishment, was laid in the village of Methil, the expense of which is to be L. 1030. It is now far advanced; so much so, that it will be open for public worship about the beginning of March. This new erection is to contain upwards of 800 sittings, and will accommodate the inhabitants of Methil, Kirkland, Methil-hill, Links of Buckhaven, and those of Inverleven, a remote and detached portion of the parish of Markinch, the whole including a population of upwards of 1700.

The pier at Methil is also begun to be repaired, the expense of which is to be upwards of L. 1800.

*January 1838.*



# PARISH OF BURNTISLAND.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. DAVID COUPER, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish was anciently Wester Kinghorn. Tradition accounts for its present name by saying, that the small island, which forms part of the west side of the harbour, was originally peopled by a colony of fishermen, whose dwelling was destroyed by fire. But the ancient name of the *town* was Bartland or Bertiland, which has passed through various forms into Burntisland. The etymology is uncertain, but is probably to be found in the Gaelic. There is no doubt that the parish has derived its present name from the town.

*Extent, Boundaries.*—The parish extends about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles from east to west, and about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles from north to south. Its whole extent may be about 5 square miles. It is bounded on the east by Kinghorn; on the west, by Aberdour; on the north, by both these parishes; and on the south, by the Frith of Forth.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface is very varied and uneven. The southern part of it presents a series of ridges of different elevations, running from east to west, and parallel to one another. The first is that which rises from the sea; the next, that which is called the Schoolhill, and sometimes Mount Pleasant. Between these two, is situated the greater part of the town. The next is that on which the village of Kirkcoun is situated. These three ridges are of very inconsiderable height; but the succeeding one rises abruptly, about the middle, to an elevation of 625 feet above the level of the sea. The hill thus formed is called the Bin, and is about half a mile from the shore. It has two tops, which, being on the south side very bare and rugged, present a fine contrast to the cultivated fields below. To the northward of this ridge, the parish presents an interesting variety of hill and dale. The eminences are somewhat irregularly scattered, and

vary considerably in appearance and elevation. The highest are, Orrock Hill and Dunearn Hill. The latter is the highest land in the parish, being 695 feet above the level of the sea. The view from it is uncommonly extensive and magnificent, embracing, it is said, portions of fourteen counties.

The town stands on a peninsula, which projects a considerable way into the Frith, and is very picturesque in its appearance. There are about three miles of coast, one-third of which is sandy, and two-thirds rocky. At the western boundary there is a small cave, to which at full tide there is no access.

The climate is exceedingly salubrious, and epidemics are rare.

*Hydrography.*—There are few streams in the parish. The most interesting is Starly Burn, which flows off the large field of limestone belonging to the Carron Company, and, after a very short course, falls over a high rock into the sea. The cascade thus formed is at all times highly picturesque, and, seen through the luxuriant foliage which environs it in summer, is an object of uncommon beauty. The water is of a petrifying quality. It holds in solution the super-carbonate of lime, which, on coming into contact with the atmosphere, gives off its excess of carbonic acid, and is precipitated as the carbonate of lime. Many interesting specimens of petrified moss and wood have been here procured.

The water with which the town is supplied, is conveyed by leaden pipes from the high ground to the eastward. As it flows off lime, it is in some degree impregnated with that substance, and leaves a slight deposit on being boiled. It is hard, but clear and wholesome; and there is, in general, an abundant supply.

*Tides, &c.*—Under this head it may be stated, that two hours before high-water the ebb-tide commences to run down inshore; and that, *vice versa*, two hours before low-water, the flood-tide commences to run up in-shore. Sometimes before low-water, the tide is observed to flow for a short time, and then to ebb to a greater distance than the line at which the irregular flow commenced. The reverse of this phenomenon is also observed to take place—the tide sometimes beginning to ebb before high-water, and, after receding a short space, to return to high-water mark. These irregularities are denominated *leakies*, and are always connected with stormy weather. A minute account of them, as they occur in the Frith, between Queensferry and Alloa, may be found in Sibbald's History of Fife, in a communication from the Rev. Mr Wright, formerly minister at Alloa.



*Geology and Mineralogy.*—This parish, in a geological point of view, is very interesting, not only as illustrating general geological principles, but also from the varied and beautiful displays it affords of the numerous Neptunian and Plutonian rocks of the coal formation, and of the fossil organic remains which it contains. Since the attention of naturalists was first directed to the natural history of this district, by the observations of Professor Jameson, read to the Wernerian Society, few parts of Scotland have been more visited by native and foreign geologists, and the Professor himself still pays us an annual visit with his class of Natural History. We regret that the limited nature of this work prevents us from communicating more than the following observations.

The southern part of this parish may be regarded as a centre from which the strata radiate in opposite directions, thus affording an example of the *qua-qua versal dip*. Supposing the spectator to look southward, he will have on his left Kinghorn and Inchkeith, consisting of strata of the coal formation, dipping to the east. In front, he will have the country between Newhaven and the Pentland range, where the strata dip south; while on the right, the strata cross the Frith in the direction of Inchcolm, the dip being westerly. Behind the dip is to the north. Hence it would seem as if this part of the country had originally been flat, and been upheaved by some great subterranean force, whose centre of action has been somewhere near Burntisland.

The rocks belong to the coal formation, and are principally limestone, sandstone, ironstone, slate-clay, bituminous shale, greenstone, basalt, trap tuffa, &c. At the boundary between Kinghorn and Burntisland, there are beds of sandstone and limestone, which are cut across by greenstone and trap tuffa. Here also occur masses of sandstone, limestone, and slate-clay, imbedded in tuffaceous rock. Coal has also been ascertained to exist.

At Whinnyhall quarries in the south-east part of the parish, the strata have been laid open to a considerable extent. In the lowest quarry, or that nearest the sea, they occur in the following order:—the lowest is limestone, then slate-clay, felspar, slate-clay, and bituminous shale of a dark shade of colour, ironstone, sandstone, alluvium. The dip is eastward. In the next quarry to the north, the same strata occur, exhibiting a beautiful bend or wave. The felspar is here seen bursting through the coal formation, affording a very good specimen of a slip or fault. Another example

occurs at the third quarry to the north, on the side of the road leading to Kirkcaldy. Between these quarries and the Lochies, is a mass of greenstone with slate-clay, very much hardened, and resembling porcelain jasper.

The strata of sandstone, shale, and limestone, contain fossil remains of ferns, also specimens of the fossil genera *Stigmara*, *Sigillaria*, *Lepidodendron*, *Lepidophyllum*, *Lepidostrobus* and *Lycopodites*. In the bituminous shale and limestone, teeth, bones, scales, and coprolite, of fishes, also entire fossilized fishes occur. Professor Jameson pointed out these remains to his pupils many years ago during his geological excursions. Lately, on opening up a new bed of coal limestone, in the limestone quarries of Burdie House, on the south side of the Forth, so long celebrated for their fossil plants, remains of fishes were discovered. In our Burntisland quarries several of the Burdie House fossil fishes have been met with, besides others unknown there, such as the *Pygopteris Jamesoni*, and the *P. elegans* of Agassiz.\*

The first ridge, mentioned in the account of the topographical appearances as rising from the sea, consists of greenstone dipping to the north. Sandstone occupies the hollow in which the town stands. The second ridge is also of greenstone, and the hollow beyond is filled with sandstone. The third ridge consists of the same material with the two already mentioned; and in the flat track to the northward, are found sandstone, slate-clay, bituminous shale, and limestone. The Bin, which is the highest part of the succeeding ridge, consists of trap tuffa, and appears to have risen through limestone, sandstone, clay-ironstone, slate-clay, and bituminous shale. The minerals found here are natrolite, zeolite, amethyst, chalcedony, agates, &c. The eminences to the northward consist of greenstone, basalt, trap tuffa, &c. Basalt occurs in abundance at Dunearn Hill, along the north side of which it assumes very distinctly the columnar form. On the summit is a small loch which never dries. This has been supposed to be the crater of an extinct volcano; and, indeed, throughout the district traces of igneous action are of frequent occurrence. On Orrock hill, there is a beautiful display of basaltic columns. The west side of this hill is bare and steep, and is covered at the bottom

\* In the College Museum of Edinburgh, there is a collection of the Burntisland fossil fishes. We are particular in mentioning this circumstance, because the limestone quarries that afforded the fossil fishes are now no longer worked, and it is only rarely that specimens are to be picked amongst the rubbish in the old quarries.



with debris. The north side of Dunearn Hill presents the same appearances on a grander scale.

We may now briefly trace the line of coast. The eastern part presents a succession of small sandhills, onwards to the Links. The chief part of these is a fine smooth plain, which is said to have extended at one time to a small rock, now about half a mile from the shore. In this quarter, the sea has obviously made great encroachments. The current sweeping round the rock already mentioned, has gradually gained on the land, and worn away the softer portions of the opposite rocks at Lamberlaws. From the Links to the harbour, is the ridge of greenstone formerly noticed. Along half of this space, the rocks are very rugged and precipitous, and at high water are covered in some places to the depth of 12 or 14 feet. From the harbour westward, along the rest of the peninsula, the coast presents limestone alternating with sandstone, and is very rugged from the large quantities of debris. The same rocks predominate along the remainder of the coast. At Starly-burn, the rocks are incrustated with deposits of calc tuff and calc sinter, from springs which come through the large beds of limestone, in the south-west part of the parish. The veins of calcareous spar, so abundant in amygdaloidal and trap rocks, have been filled up with similar deposits, crystallization taking place after the deposition.

Fossils of the vegetable kind are found, but not in great abundance, at the quarries at Newbigging, and at the old sandstone quarries near the coast, at the eastern boundary of the parish. Charred wood occurs in the masses of trap tuffa, scattered along the eastern shore.

The chief alluvial deposits are, loam, gravel, sand, clay, and moss. The soil between the town and the Bin is mostly a rich deep loam of great fertility, and is probably as good land as can be found in the county. To the northward, the soil is lighter; but, being for the most part well cultivated, yields good crops. A strip of mossy ground runs along the northern boundary of the parish.

*Quarries.*—Besides the quarries already noticed, there is one of excellent sandstone or freestone at Grange. At Newbigging, the limestone rock has been extensively excavated. The western quarry extends from the front of the rock backwards above a hundred yards. The roof is sandstone,—to support which, masses of limestone four feet square are left standing. The *rooms* between these supports are

36 feet square. In July 1831, a great part of this quarry was flooded, and eight *rooms* are still under water. A large proportion of the limestone is now got from a mine to the eastward, which communicates with the surface by a tunnel, 500 yards in length, 3 in width, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in height. In cutting this tunnel, great obstructions were met with, the ground being much *troubled* with dikes and off-cuts. Masses of greenstone, limestone, freestone, clay, and blaes, (black and gray) were found intermingled in a state of great confusion. The whole bed of limestone is very much intersected with dikes.

*Zoology*.—In addition to hares, rabbits, and other common animals, deer, badgers, and otters, are occasionally seen. About eighty species of birds, including land and sea-birds, are natives or visitors of the parish, but none is peculiar to it, nor are there any very rare. The golden-crested wren, the bullfinch, the goldfinch, the jay, the fieldfare, the pheasant, with most of the common small birds, are found in the district. It has been remarked, that, since the great snow-storm of 1822, goldfinches have been much less numerous than they previously were. In June 1834, a brown-coloured crow was seen in the parish, and attempts were made, but without success, to obtain possession of it.

The more common species of fish are found off the coast. For several seasons, the herring, which formerly was very abundant, has almost totally deserted the Frith. Oysters and lobsters are found, with abundance of cockles, spout-fish, and sand-eels, which form part of the food of the poorer classes during summer. Great numbers, especially of the young, may then be seen digging at low water for these kinds of fish, in the extensive sand-beds to the east of Burntisland.

*Botany*.—The following is a list of the plants most worthy of notice; some of them are understood to be very rare:—

<i>Primula elatior</i> ,	.	.	Starly-burn.
<i>Hyoscyamus niger</i> ,	.	.	Waste ground east of Starly-burn.
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i> ,	.	.	Roadside leading to Aberdour—plentiful.
<i>Cochlearia danica</i> ,	.	.	West pier, Burntisland.
<i>Orobanche major</i> ,	.	.	Bank to the north of the town.
<i>Ballota nigra</i> ,	.	.	Lanes near the church. Abundant.
<i>Marrubium vulgare</i> ,	.	.	Waste places.
<i>Thlaspi arvense</i> ,	.	.	Field south side of road. Starly-burn.
<i>Lepidium campestre</i> ,	.	.	Do.
<i>Sedum telephium</i> ,	.	.	Rocky banks by the sea.
..... <i>reflexum</i> ,	.	.	Grange quarry.
<i>Galeopsis ladanum</i> ,	.	.	Cornfield, south-east of Bin. Plentiful.
<i>Anchusa sempervirens</i> ,	.	.	Near west toll-bar, by side of a foot-path.
<i>Borago officinalis</i> ,	.	.	Lane to the east of the church.
<i>Coronopus Ruellii</i> ,	.	.	Wayside near manse. Very abundant.



<i>Salvia verbenaca</i> ,	.	Bank facing the harbour.
<i>Cakile maritima</i> ,	.	East of the town.
<i>Glaux maritimum</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Salsola kali</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Geranium sanguineum</i> ,	.	Hills east from Burntisland.
<i>Erythraea centaurea</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Parietaria muralis</i> ,	.	Opposite the harbour.
<i>Euphorbia exigua</i> ,	.	Cornfields.
<i>Reseda lutea et luteola</i> ,	.	Between Burntisland and Pettycur.
<i>Brassica campestris</i> ,	.	Near Starly-burn.
<i>Aster Tripolium</i> ,	.	Salt-marsh, west of Burntisland.
<i>Inula helenium</i> ,	.	Hills east of do.
<i>Chrysanthemum segetum</i> ,	.	Cornfields.
<i>Sparganium natans</i> ,	.	Dunearn Hill.
..... <i>simplex</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Eleocharis fluitans</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Littorella lacustris</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Dianthus deltoides</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Mercurialis annua</i> ,	.	Waste ground near the church.
<i>Veronica anagallis</i> ,	.	Ditches.
<i>Phleum arenarium</i> ,	.	Between Burntisland and Pettycur.
<i>Poa rigida</i> ,	.	Old walls.
<i>Carex extensa</i> ,	.	Starly-burn.
..... <i>curta</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Eupatoria cannabinum</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Asplenium marinum</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Blysmus rufus</i> ,	.	Do.
<i>Cynoglossum officinale</i> ,	.	Pastures near the sea.
<i>Rumex maritimus</i> ,	.	Sea shore.

The following also occur, but we are not in possession of their localities :—

<i>Triticum loliaceum</i> ,	.	<i>Sinapis alba</i> ,
<i>Erythrea littoralis</i> ,	.	<i>Solidago virgaurea</i> ,
<i>Sium angustifolium</i> ,	.	<i>Trifolium scabrum</i> ,
<i>Gentiana campestris</i> ,	.	<i>Tragopogon majus</i> , (or <i>pratense</i> ),
<i>Origanum vulgare</i> ,	.	<i>Zostera marina</i> .

In the parish, generally, there is a great deficiency of wood. Within the last two or three years, some attention has been paid to the remedying of this defect; but there is still ample scope for improvement. The soil appears most congenial to hard-wood, oak, ash, elm, &c.

It may be mentioned that there grew last summer in the manse garden, a Scots thistle, which produced 713 heads, exclusive of about thirty which were scarcely developed. \*

\* With regard to the department of Natural History, it may not be out of place to record here the suggestion so often urged by Professor Jameson, and also by an intelligent friend, that, in connection with every parochial school, it would be very desirable to have a parochial museum. A certain knowledge of natural history, would of course, be requisite in the parish teacher; the scholars and others might be encouraged to collect specimens; and in almost every parish, there would surely be found some individuals who would take an interest in the matter, and bear part of the expenses, which would be very trifling. The scheme, if carried into effect, would lead to a very complete knowledge of the Natural History of the country. To those who have not reflected on the subject, it is almost incredible what an interesting collection might be formed out of the productions of a single parish.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The Town-council records are the chief source of information regarding the history and antiquities of the parish. The Session records are also of some use in this respect. Some of the following details are derived from the Report on the Municipal Corporations of Scotland.

*Historical Notices.*—It has been conjectured that Agricola's army encamped on Dunearn Hill, on the summit of which is a flat piece of ground, surrounded with an immense number of loose stones, called, according to the former account, Agricola's camp or garrison. It is certain that that General explored the north coast of the Frith of Forth, directing his attention particularly to the harbours. "Portus classe exploravit trans Bodotriam," says Tacitus, in the 22d chapter of his Life of Agricola. He could scarcely fail to be struck with the natural superiority of the harbour at this point, and may be reasonably conjectured to have landed here.

Prior to 1541, the town of Burntisland belonged to the Abbey of Dunfermline. It was then exchanged by James V. for some lands in the neighbourhood, and was proclaimed a royal burgh in 1568. Before the Union, it seems to have been a place of considerable importance. About 1656, Kinghorn, Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Wemyss, Leven, Ely, St Monance, Pittenweem, Anstruther, Crail, St Andrews, and South Queensferry were all counted as members of the head port of Burntisland; and the tonnage of the whole was estimated at 1291 tons, divided over 46 vessels. About that period, and previously, there seems to have been considerable intercourse between this port and Holland.

In May 1601, the General Assembly met at Burntisland. On this occasion, James VI. renewed his vows as a Covenanter. Having confessed the errors that had hitherto characterized his government, he vowed, with uplifted hand, that he would adhere to the religion presently professed in the realm of Scotland, that he would oppose the efforts of its adversaries, and be more faithful than he had hitherto been, in performing all the duties of a good and Christian King. The members of Assembly also vowed, at his request, that they would be more faithful in the discharge of their respective duties; and, that the people might be aware of the good understanding between him and the church, the mutual vow was ordered to be intimated from the pulpits on the following Sabbath. At this Assembly, the King also suggested the propriety



of revising the common translation of the Scriptures, and the metrical version of the Psalms. According to Spotswood, the speech which he made on the occasion "bred not little admiration in the whole assembly." "But ravished as they were," says Dr M'Crie, "and proud as they might be of having for a King so great a divine and linguist and poet, the Assembly did not think fit to gratify his Majesty by naming him on the committee; but recommended the translation of the Bible to such of their own number as were best acquainted with the original languages, and the correction of the psalmody to Pont."\*

The inhabitants of Burntisland were zealous Covenanters. In 1638, many of them signified their adherence to the National Covenant, as the kirk-session records testify, "with tearis of great joy." The minister, "Mr Johne Mitchelsone," being of a different mind, was left for a time to preach to empty walls—"13 May—20 May—27 May—3 Junii—10 Junii—no actionis, because the people goes from the kirke and will not heir the minister, seing he will (not) covenant with the people of God." In February 1639, he was deposed for contumacy with regard to the Covenant, and for disowning the proceedings of the celebrated Assembly that was held at Glasgow.

It is said that the town capitulated to Cromwell on condition of his repairing the streets and the harbour. The quays, as they at present stand, were accordingly built by him; and up to the date of last Account, no repairs had been added to those which he effected on the streets. Some years ago, the old pavement was broken up, and the main street macadamized.

In 1715, the town was occupied by the Earl of Mar's troops, who found the harbour very advantageous for the reception of foreign stores.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Mrs Aytoun of Inchdairnie; the Carron Company; the Heirs of the late Alexander Greenhill, Esq.; J. G. Drinkwater Bethune, Esq. of Orrock; James Bogie, Esq.; The Earl of Morton; Messrs Young; the Heirs of Captain Beatson; and Mrs Pillans of Rossend.

*Eminent Characters.*—Mrs Somerville, whose works have raised her to a very high place among modern writers in Natural Philosophy, spent part of her youth in this parish. Craigholm, towards the east end of the links, is the summer residence of the Rev. Dr Chalmers.

*Parochial Registers.*—The session records commence at March 1602. They consist of eight volumes, and have for the most part been regularly kept. Blanks occur from 1670 to 1672; from 1686 to 1693; from 1711 to 1719; and from 1748 to 1769. From 1786 there is a series of fragments on to 1821; after which period, the record has been regularly kept.\* The register of births, baptisms, and marriages commences at 1672, and is continued more or less perfectly to the present time. As in the session records, there are some considerable blanks. At various periods, a record of deaths has been kept, but it is very scanty.†

*Antiquities.*—The town was at one time fortified. On the south-east side of the harbour, part of the walls of a fort is still standing; and till within a few years back, traces of the ancient fortification were discernible on the small eminence in the north side of the town. At Lamberlaws, on a knoll projecting into the sea, are the traces of an encampment ascribed to Cromwell; in consequence of which, the name of Oliver's knoll has sometimes been given to the locality. In the same situation, there appears to have stood at one time a gallows for the execution of criminals under the feudal system. In allusion to this circumstance, the locality is sometimes called Gallows Knoll.

On an eminence overhanging the harbour stands Rossend Castle, erected, it would seem, at some period in the fifteenth century, by Dury of that Ilk. Sibbald, in his *History of Fife*, states, that "in the chartulary of Dunfermling, (to which abbacy this town, castle, and harbour belonged,) there is a grant by George Durie,

\* Since 1616, there appear to have been sixteen ministers of the parish, the average duration of their ministry being nearly fourteen years. One of them, "Mr Harie Malcome," officiated only one Sabbath as minister. The record, after giving an account of his admission on June 17th 1663, has the following entry: "Sunday the 21 of June, our minister, Mr Harie Malcome, preached before and after noone, &c. He went awaye on Monday in the morning yrafter to his father's, and came never back againe to us, for his father presentlie dieing where he was there he stayed and succidet to his father's church."

† Some of the entries are of a striking character: "Janr. 1737, perished in a storm near Andrew Watt, late Provost of this burgh, and with him in the ship also perished his eldest son Andrew, his second son, William, his fourth son, David. Also perished with them Andrew Boog, son to George Boog, late Bailie in this burgh. Also perished with them James Sinclair, mariner in this town, also other four youths."—"1739, May 10th, being Thursday about three o'clock in the morning, perished in the water within the harbour, (the sea being in) within twenty or thirty yards of the Iron-crag towards the south-west of it, John Aitken, David Laverock, and Gourlie, all belonging to Kinghorn, their fathers still living there, and Andrew Thomson, carpenter, at present living here (!) All four young men, below thirty years of age the eldest. An awful Providence!"



commendater of Dunfermling, and Archdeacon of St Andrews, to Robert Durie of that Ilk, of our lands of Nether Grange of Kinghorn Wester, called Le Mains ; together with the keeping of the place or fort of the same ; ‘ and for the preserving and custody thereof, we dispone heritably our lands of Grefland and Cuningerland, now called Brunt-Island, within our shire of Kinghorn, regality of Dunfermling, and sherifffdom of Fife ;’ dated anno 1538.” After the Reformation, according to the same authority, the castle was given first to Kirkcaldy of Grange, then to Sir Robert Melville of Carnie. Since that period, it is understood to have passed through the hands of many different proprietors. It served as head quarters to the detachment of the Covenanters’ troops that was raised in this part of the country. In modern times, considerable additions have been made to it. It is surrounded by plantations and garden ground ; and forms a fine object in the foreground of the rich and extensive view commanded by the environs of the town.

At the village of Kirkcoun, are the ruins of the original parish church, surrounded by a small burying-ground. The date of its erection is unknown ; but it bears the marks of great antiquity. On a small eminence at Stenhouse, in the north-west part of the parish, stand the ruins of a small fort or castle, called Knockdavie. It belonged anciently to an individual of the name of Douglas, of whom some notice is taken in “ The Judgments of God on Persecutors,” appended to some of the old editions of the Scots Worthies. At Balbee, a mile and a half eastward, there existed a structure somewhat similar. It was taken down about sixty or seventy years ago, and portions of the fine hewn freestone of which it was built may still be seen in some of the walls in the neighbourhood. Near the same place, a barrow or tumulus was opened fifty years ago, when some square stones were found, arranged in the form of a coffin, but containing no particular relics. There appears to have been a number of tumuli in the same neighbourhood.

### III.—POPULATION.

Population in 1811, (seamen included,)	2000
1821,	2180
1831,	2399

The following abstract of the population was drawn up by Mr Davidson, the burgh schoolmaster, in 1831:—

Ages of males.	Under 5.	From 5 to 10,	From 10 to 15	From 15 to 20	From 20 to 30	From 30 to 40	From 40 to 50	From 50 to 60	From 60 to 70	From 70 to 80	From 80 to 90	Totals.
Burntisland,	116	120	107	86	128	86	87	57	45	24	7	863
Kirktown,	16	17	10	6	15	12	11	2	2			91
Country,	22	24	17	12	35	24	19	10	7	1	2	173
Total males,	154	161	134	104	178	122	117	69	54	25	9	1127
Ages females.												
Burntisland,	101	128	107	83	162	117	113	84	75	33	7	1010
Kirktown,	22	15	10	4	11	14	8	7	7	1		99
Country,	18	17	22	11	30	23	18	3	6	5		163
Total females,	141	170	139	98	203	154	139	94	88	39	7	1272
Male and fem.	295	331	273	202	381	276	256	163	142	64	16	2399

Exclusive of seamen not constantly resident, the whole population was found to be	2366
Of which number there resided in the town,	1842
In the village of Kirktown,	189
And in the landward part of the parish,	335
The number of families was	537
males above 20,	574
under 20,	553
houses	295

Of which 2 were building, and 24 uninhabited.

Illegitimate births in the course of the last three years, 6

From temporary causes, the population seems to have been somewhat greater when the census was taken, than it would otherwise have been. There has since been a considerable decrease. According to a census taken four years after by the writer, the number of families was found to be 500, giving a population of about 2100. This decrease must chiefly be attributed to the great failure in the herring fishery during the last five years. Employment having thus become scarcer, many have been compelled to seek for it elsewhere. It has also happened, that several families, not dependent on trade, have removed from the parish since the Government census was taken, while others in similar circumstances have not come in to occupy their place.

The average number of births for the last seven years may be stated at 65  
proclamations, 18  
deaths, 34

Twelve of the heritors are proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards. Of these only three are resident, viz. the Messrs Young, who occupy the elegant residences of Colinswell, Grange, and Newbigging.



There are four fatuous persons in the parish, one insane, and one or two blind.

The chief game is golf,—the links, though not very extensive, being well adapted for it. A golf club has been in existence upwards of forty years.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

There are about 2900 imperial acres in the parish, of which from 400 to 500 are in pasture, and nearly 90 are covered with wood. From the extent of rocky surface, there is a considerable proportion of waste land, but none that could profitably be added to what is already in cultivation. Some of it, however, might be advantageously planted. There is no land in the parish in undivided common.

*Rent of Land.*—The value of arable land varies from L. 1, 10s. up to L. 7 per acre; the average rent may be nearly L. 3. The rent of grazing is estimated at L. 3 for an ox or cow, and at 15s. for a sheep.

*Rate of Wages.*—Farm-servants receive from 9s. to 12s. per week; and the different kinds of country artisans from 15s. to L. 1.

*Husbandry.*—The following is the rotation of crops adopted in the southern and more fertile part of the parish:—green crop, succeeded by wheat, barley, or oats; and then green crop of a different kind from what has been two years before. The rotation in the more northern parts is as follows:—green crop, barley or oats, and sometimes wheat; sown grass, one, two, or three years; then oats. The system of husbandry may be regarded as carried in some parts of the parish to great perfection. Within a few years, some waste land has been reclaimed, and great improvements have been effected by liming and draining. The farmsteadings are, for the most part, in excellent order; but there is in some quarters, a great want of fences, and on this account there is little or no pasture in the most fertile district of the parish. The usual period of a lease is nineteen years. The cattle are generally of the Fife breed, and the sheep of the Cheviot breed.

*Produce.*—It is difficult to ascertain the gross produce of the parish; but the real rental being about L. 4800, should give an average of about L. 14,000.

*Corn-Mills.*—Of these there are two, both in the neighbourhood of the town. One of them is driven by the sea, and can work on an average about fourteen hours per day.

*Distillery.*—There is an extensive distillery at Grange, about half a-mile to the northward of the town; 11,000 quarters of malt,

the quantity which it annually consumes, yield 185,000 gallons of proof spirits, the duty on which amounts of itself to about L. 36,000; or nearly L. 100 per day. About 700 head of cattle are annually fed in connection with this distillery, which at L. 15, 10s. per head, will produce L. 10,850. The proprietors of this work employ regularly about 100 men and 50 horses. Notwithstanding the nature of their employment, the men, in general, are sober and steady.

*Herring fishery and curing.*—The herring fishery commenced about 1793, and from that period till about 1805, was carried on only in the Frith during the winter season. The curers then began to send boats during summer to the northern fishing stations, and for many years the trade was very prosperous. At its most flourishing period, as many as 500 vessels might be seen at once in the harbour, all either connected directly with the fishery, or employed in the exportation of herrings. The trade has now greatly declined, there having been no winter fishing for the last five years. At present, there are eight curing establishments which send out to the northern fishery between 70 and 80 boats, most of which belong to other ports in the Frith. The greater part of them go to Wick, the rest to Fraserburgh and Roseheart. The middle of July is the time at which they usually set out, and they return in about two months. Each boat carries five men, so that during two months in the year, Burntisland employs in this way about 400 men. A number more are employed in the sloops which, to the number of 8 or 10, ply during the same period between this port and the fishing stations, carrying out barrels and salt, and bringing home the herrings that have been taken. From 200 to 250 cranes, (a crane being equal to a barrel,) are considered to be the complement of each boat. For some years, there have been annually cured from 16,000 to 18,000 barrels, which, at L. 1, the average price per barrel, will give the same number of pounds. About 36 hands, including apprentices, are constantly employed as coopers; and about 60 females are occasionally employed in the curing of the herrings. The occupation is cold and disagreeable; but even this cannot warrant a pernicious practice that has long prevailed, of giving daily to those engaged in it, and some of these are young females, a considerable quantity of undiluted spirits.

*Whale fishing Company.*—This company commenced operations in 1830, and from that period have annually sent out two vessels, one of 377 tons, and the other of 311,—each of which carries 50 men. Last season, both returned clean; but from 1830 to 1835,



their cargoes produced 1112 tons of oil, and 56 tons of bones. During that period, the wages and oil money paid to the crews of both vessels amounted to upwards of L. 14,400 Sterling; and upwards of L. 1300 was paid for labourage, landing cargoes, preparing the oil, and cleaning the bone. Twelve oilmen and coopers are employed in the work, and from twelve to fifteen women in cleaning the bone. The late Sir John Leslie, in a report on the subject, gives the following account of the method devised and carried into effect by Mr Farnie, for destroying the fetid vapours emitted during the manufacture of the oil. "The boiler is very large, and completely covered by a circle of thick plank, except a small opening on the more accessible side, to receive the contents of the casks, and a narrow vent in another part, which allows a current of air to mingle with the vapour, and sweep over the surface of the heated oil. All the steaming products are made to enter into a reverberatory furnace, and pass upwards through two successive branders, charged with coke or coal, that burn with an intense white heat. On the same level with the branders, are three small air-holes, having each a separate flue for inciting occasionally the ardour of inflammation, and while the ebullition advances, the blubber lying at the bottom of the pan is constantly turned round by an *agitator*, like the *stirrer* of a large still, only driven by the action of a crank fixed near the side of the boiler. After the boiling is finished, and the oil has been moderately cooled, it is drawn by means of a syphon into a tank, and the refuse thrown into a covered vault; every operation being performed under the same close roof." Sir John states that he regards the operations introduced by this company "as an invaluable practical invention," and expresses his belief that it will "be speedily adopted in the maritime parts of the empire, and thus become a real national blessing."

*Ship-Building.*—In the building and repairing of vessels, 30 men are at present employed; at former periods, there have been as many as 100. The largest vessel ever built here was one of 443 tons.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-town is Kirkcaldy, six miles distant. The only village in the parish is Kirkcaldy.

*Burgh.*—The town-council consists of 21, while only 31 burghesses are qualified to be elected; but this is one of the burghs the number of whose councillors it is proposed to reduce. It unites

with Kirkcaldy, Dysart, and Kinghorn, in returning a Member to Parliament. The number of voters is 48. Within the parliamentary boundaries, there are 66 persons whose rents in property or tenantry amount to L. 10 per annum and upwards, and of these 35 are burgesses. Within the same boundaries, there are 53 persons whose rents amount to L. 5, and are under L. 10; and of these 9 are burgesses. Besides the guildry, amounting to 82, inclusive of 7 non-resident, there are 6 incorporated trades, viz. hammermen, tailors, weavers, fleshers, shoemakers, bakers. All these corporations, together with a rather wealthy institution called the Prime-Guild Society, which consists of ship-owners and others connected with the sea-faring line, are possessed of seats in the parish church; and it must be added, that some of these bodies wring out as high seat rents as possible from the pockets of the parishioners. A number of seats are also possessed by the town.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a regular post-office, the revenue of which amounted, some years ago, to about L. 300; but, from the decay of trade, is now understood to fall short of that sum. The communication with Edinburgh, by means of the post, is twice-a-day. There are about five miles of turnpike road, but no public carriages travel regularly through any part of the parish. The Dundee and Perth coaches come occasionally this way, when the weather is too severe to admit of the passengers embarking at Pettycur. This being one of the stations of the Fife and Mid-Lothian ferries, there is regular communication by steam with Newhaven; but great complaints are made of the extravagance of the fares, which are 2s. in the cabin, and 1s. 6d. steerage,—very high rates, it must be allowed, for a distance short of six miles. In addition to the steam-vessels, there are large sailing-boats which ply at tide-time every lawful day, and are principally employed in carrying goods, &c.

*Harbour, &c.*—The opinion anciently entertained of the excellence of the harbour may be learned from the name "*Portus gratiæ*" or "*Portus salutis*," by which it is designated in some of the charters of the burgh. It is still reckoned the best in the frith, being easily entered, as well as very capacious and secure; and at full tide of great depth. Its latitude is  $56^{\circ} 3' 20''$ , its longitude  $3^{\circ} 15'$ . The distance between the lighthouse on the pier and that on the pier at Newhaven is five miles and a third nearly, as found by accurate observations. In 1833, the vessels belonging to this port were eight, and their tonnage 900.



The extension of the piers would be a vast improvement, and could be effected at a moderate expense, as the necessary materials are abundant in the neighbourhood, and the other natural facilities are great. Were this effected, the harbour could easily be entered at any state of the tide. With reference to the improvement of the ferry, Sir Thomas Telford has suggested the construction of a landing-pier a little to the eastward. In his report on the subject, he gives a decided preference to Burntisland as a landing-place on the north shore of the frith,—stating, that “whether the expense of construction, or the distance, facility, and regularity of passage, is considered, it appears quite clear that Burntisland should be adopted.”—“It is, indeed,” he says, “most fortunate that a place so well calculated should afford the shortest passage, and be otherwise so favourably situated.”

*Dock.*—Connected with the harbour is a dry dock belonging to Mr Farnie. It is 200 feet in length, the width of the gates is 44 feet, and the depth of water at high spring tides  $16\frac{1}{2}$  feet. The gates are of a peculiar construction, being circular in the bottom. A Russian frigate of 1000 tons, and the steam-ship, the United Kingdom, are the largest vessels that have ever been in this dock.

*Roadstead.*—The roadstead of Burntisland possesses great advantages, and is accordingly much resorted to in stormy weather. The anchorage is good; there is great depth of water very near the shore; and ample shelter is afforded by the high ground to the north, and by the sand-bank to the east, which projects a considerable way into the sea.

At Starly-burn there is a small harbour where the limestone belonging to the Carron Company is shipped, and where vessels occasionally take in water, of which there is a copious supply. For this latter purpose, it was frequently resorted to by the King's ships during the last war. About half a mile to the eastward of the town, there is also a pier for the shipping of lime.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church stands on the ridge which rises from the sea. It was built in 1592, on the model, it is understood, of the North Church of Amsterdam, and is thus an indication of the ancient intercourse which subsisted between this port and Holland. It was erected, not by the heritors, but by the inhabitants of the town, who began to find it inconvenient to go over to the old church at Kirkcoun. They asked nothing of the heritors but their consent; and, as an inducement, offered them

their due proportion of seats, taking the whole burden, not only of building, but also of repairing on themselves. They reared, accordingly, a substantial square edifice, surmounted by a tower, the height of which is not proportioned to its thickness; but want of funds is understood to have prevented it from lifting its head so high as was contemplated. Though situated on the boundary of the parish, and distant about three miles from its northern extremities, the church is perfectly convenient for the great mass of the population. It is at present in a good state of repair, and affords accommodation for 900 or upwards, but might easily be made to accommodate a hundred or two more, as the area is very uneconomically seated. In the former Account, it is stated as a fact well known in this place, that it once held within its walls between 3000 and 4000 Hessians, who were lying encamped near the town in 1746.

The manse was built in 1824, and is considered one of the best in Scotland. The glebe consists of 5 Scots acres, and is let at a yearly rent of L. 35. There is no grass glebe, but the sum of L. 15 Sterling is allowed in lieu of it. The stipend is mostly payable in money, and amounts to about L. 190.

There is a chapel in the parish in connection with the United Secession Synod. The minister is paid out of the seat rents, and his stipend is understood to be L. 100. An assistant and successor is about to be appointed, when it is proposed that the former shall receive L. 60, and the latter L. 80. A house belonging to the congregation forms part of the living of the minister.

Taking 500 as the number of families, about 330 of these belong to the Established Church, and the rest, with very few exceptions, to the United Secession. A very small number are connected with no religious denomination, and there are three or four Roman Catholics. Divine service is respectably attended both at the parish church, and at the dissenting meeting-house; at both it might be better. The average number of communicants at the Established Church is about 400. In connection with the congregation of the parish church, there is a society in support of the missions, &c. of the Church of Scotland. As it is but of recent origin, it would be premature to conjecture the amount of its annual contributions. The collections at the parish church for religious and charitable purposes may be stated as averaging for some years between L. 20 and L. 30 per annum. This is exclusive of the ordinary collections for the poor, which amount in the year to



between L. 60 and L. 70. The sum realized during the last two years and a-half for religious purposes, including collections, a subscription for church extension, and the contributions already obtained by the society in connection with the parish church, falls very little short of L. 130.\*

*Education.*—There are in all seven schools in the parish; but five of these are small, and four of them are taught by females. There is no parochial school. The burgh school has always been under the direction of the magistrates and council, and the teacher is appointed by them. His salary is L. 37 a-year, and is paid out of the burgh revenue. The regulated fees are, for English reading, 2s. per quarter; do. with writing, 2s. 6d.; with arithmetic, 4s. 6d.; Latin, with Greek, French, arithmetic, mathematics, English grammar, geography, 6s. per quarter; navigation and book-keeping, L. 1, 1s. per course. These fees have been the same for the last twenty years. All regulations for the school are made under the sanction and control of the magistrates. There are certain lands in the parish mortified by a Mr Watson, and a house and garden in the burgh, for behoof of the schoolmaster and three poor widows. Each of the widows has an allotment in the house, and each a third of the garden. The land is let to a tenant at the money rent of L. 18, 10s., and 34 bolls of barley and 6 bolls of oatmeal yearly, the growth of the lands; and if he has no barley on the lands, he is bound to pay the highest Mid-Lothian fiar prices for the barley and oatmeal. Ten bolls of the barley, and one-fourth of the money rent are paid to the schoolmaster, for which he is obliged to teach as many poor children belonging to the town and parish as the magistrates recommend, at the rate of 1s. 6d. per quarter, the number of scholars not to exceed, at this rate, the sum he may draw yearly. The rest of the barley, oatmeal, and money rent, is divided equally among the three widows.†

The average number attending all the schools is not much short of 300, which, taking the population at 2100, gives about one-seventh attending school. The people in general seem alive to

\* The following extract from the session records may be given as affording a specimen of the kind of collections that were frequently made in Scotland a century or two ago. "December 11th 1659.—The minister does (by ordour of the synode) intimat from ye pulpit (being condescendit upon by ye sessione) a voluntarie contributione to be collected afternoone at ye incoming to ye afternoone sermone for ye toune of St Andros, for repairing and helping up yr shore wh was leaked onne by a vehement storme, wh is to be collected thorou all ye chruches in this presbetrie, and are exhorted to charetie."

† Municipal Corporations' Report.

the benefits of education. Very few above six or seven are unable to read, and most can both read and write. There are two Sunday schools, besides a class connected with the congregation of the parish church.

*Literature.*—There is a subscription library of between 500 and 600 volumes. Along with the proportion of trash which is usually found in such libraries, it contains a good deal of the standard literature of the country. It has not, of late, been in a very flourishing condition. There is also a parish library, chiefly for the benefit of the poorer classes and of the young. It consists of about 300 volumes, chiefly of a religious nature. The books are given out gratis, and the number of readers, both old and young, is very considerable.

*Charitable Institutions.*—Watson's mortification, already mentioned, is the only thing in the shape of an endowment for the poor. In January 1829, a society was formed called "The Burntisland Funeral Insurance Society." It is divided into three classes; the *first*, including those who insure a sum of money to be paid at their death; the *second*, those who insure a sum to be paid at the death of their wives or husbands; and the *third*, those who insure a sum to be paid at the death of any of their children under eighteen years of age. Any person qualified may enter any one or more of these classes. By the original regulations, it is provided that persons under forty years of age shall pay 2s. and those above that age 4s. on their admission as members; and that at each quarterly meeting, each member of one class shall pay 3d.; each member of two classes, 6d.; and each member of three classes, 9d. On the death of a member of the first or second class, L. 5 may be drawn from the funds of the society by the party having a right; and on the death of a child of a member of class third, if under three months, L. 1, 10s. may be drawn; if above that age and under three years, L. 2; if between three and eighteen years, L. 3. On these regulations some slight changes have been made, the sums payable on the death of members being now somewhat smaller. This society has proved of considerable benefit to the working classes, and now numbers upwards of 300 members.

There is no savings bank in the parish. An attempt was made to establish one, some years ago, but it unfortunately failed.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number at present on the poor's roll is 35. Individuals receive 6d. 1s. or 1s. 6d. per week, according to their circumstances,—some, who have children to sup-



port, receive larger sums. The highest allowance at present is 3s. The funds arise from the collections at the church door, which may be stated at L. 65; from proclamations which, at 2s. 6d. each, yield from L. 2 to L. 2, 5s. per annum; and from a voluntary assessment on the part of the landward heritors to the extent of L. 50, the whole of which, however, has not for some time been realized. For a year or two, these funds have proved insufficient to meet the demands made upon them, and the kirk-session have been under the necessity of calling upon the heritors to renew their contribution before the expiry of the annual term. On account of the decay of trade, and the consequent lack of employment, pauperism has been, for some time, decidedly on the increase. Among many of the poor, there is very little reluctance to apply for parochial aid. There are some honourable exceptions; but the old Scottish spirit of independence is gradually disappearing. Instances also occur of extreme unwillingness to contribute towards the maintenance of infirm or aged relatives. As yet, the spirit of beneficence is far from being dormant in the breasts of the wealthier classes. The amount of private charity is considerable; and subscriptions are occasionally made to meet cases of peculiar destitution. Coals, procured in this way, are generally distributed in the winter season; and to the liberality of James Strange, Esq. and his household, by whom Rossend Castle has for some years been occupied during the summer months, have the poor been indebted for a seasonable supply of this necessary article, in the course of the present and two preceding winters.

*Jail.*—The jail of Burntisland is neither large nor commodious; but there are seldom any prisoners.

The following statement of the number of civil and criminal causes tried by the magistrates from 1820 to 1833 inclusive, is taken from the Report on Municipal Corporations in Scotland.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Civil causes.</i>	<i>Criminal causes.</i>	<i>Year.</i>	<i>Civil causes.</i>	<i>Criminal causes.</i>
1820,	6	2	1827,	25	4
1821,	6	2	1828,	10	0
1822,	13	1	1829,	18	0
1823,	5	1	1830,	15	0
1824,	14	1	1831,	4	3
1825,	6	1	1832,	16	10
1826,	15	4	1833,	20	2

*Inns, &c.*—There are 2 respectable inns, and 15 or 16 ale-houses, which, as in most other places, have an injurious effect on the morals of the people.

*Fair*.—A fair is annually held in the town on the 10th day of July.

*Fuel*.—The chief fuel is coal, which is brought principally from Lochgelly and the neighbourhood, about six or eight miles distant. The price is from 9s. to 10s. 6d. per ton, including tolls and carriage.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the date of last Account, both the town and the landward district have undergone great improvements. For a number of years, the town has been a favourite watering-place. The pure air, the good bathing-ground, the agreeable and extensive walks, the rich and varied scenery, together with the facility of communication with Edinburgh, attract annually a great number of visitors; so that, between June and October, the town assumes a much more animated appearance than during the remainder of the year. There is good accommodation for visitors, at rates varying from a small sum up to fifteen or twenty guineas per month. The vitriol work, which was in operation when the last Statistical Account was written, has been long suspended, and the premises have been converted into cottages for the summer visitors.

The country part of the parish is in a much higher state of cultivation than it was forty years ago. The farms are large, and the country population is consequently smaller. In this, as in many parishes, a want of hands is sometimes experienced in harvest,—many who formerly inhabited rural districts having been attracted to towns by the thriving state of manufactures. Would it not be for the advantage of all parties, if proprietors were to erect cottages, or give greater facilities for feuing, or otherwise encourage labourers and their families to settle in the country? This would be preferable in many ways to the system of *bothies*; and we should look for a much healthier state of the community, both in a moral and an economical point of view, were the proportion of the rural to the town population much higher than it is.

*December 1836.*



## PARISH OF LOGIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANDREW MELVILLE, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish is supposed to be Gaelic, signifying *a hollow among hills*. This is descriptive of the place in which the church is situated. The name Logie is frequently conjoined with some other name or epithet, referring probably either to something peculiar in the situation of the place, or to some person particularly connected with it;—as Logie Almond, Blair Logie, Logierait. This parish was anciently called Logie Murdoch.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—Its length is nearly 4 miles, its breadth from 1 to  $1\frac{1}{2}$ , and consequently it contains from 4 to 5 square miles. Its figure is an irregular oblong, bounded on the east by the parishes of Forgan and Leuchars; on the south, by Leuchars and Dairsie; on the west and north, by Kilmany. It occupies the south-eastern extremity of that range of high land which, rising to the northward of Stirling under the name of the Ochil hills, stretches eastward, gradually sinking in elevation, till it terminates in the plain, which bounds the bay of St Andrews between the Frith of Tay and the estuary of the river Eden. Its surface is irregular and hilly. But none of the hills rise to more than 500 or 600 feet above the level of the sea. The highest, which is in the east end of the parish, is called Inchlawhill, about 5 miles from the shore of the German ocean.

*Meteorology.*—No accurate meteorological accounts have been kept here. The air is colder, the snow falls deeper and lies longer than in the adjacent low country, but not so much as materially to retard the operations of agriculture in spring, or the ripening of the crops in autumn. The prevailing wind in spring, and in the beginning of summer, is east and north-east, frequently dry but cold, and hurtful to vegetation; blowing probably from the snow-clad mountains of Norway, and not much softened by its short pas-

sage across the German ocean. As in most parts of the eastern coast of the lowlands of Scotland, less rain falls here than on the western coast. This seems to arise from the rainy clouds which the south-west wind brings from the Atlantic ocean, being emptied before they reach this side of the Island, and there being no land sufficiently high to attract the clouds. The rainy point is the south-east.

*Geology.*—The rock of which the hills are composed, is chiefly what in common language is termed whinstone. The highest hill, however, is an insulated mass of porphyry of a reddish yellow colour, apparently resting upon a bed of whinstone. There are several other similar masses of the same species of rock, in the same range of hills to the westward. In the low ground to the north of this hill, there is a singular bank or table-land of sand, which was formerly surrounded by a marsh or lake; but this is now converted into arable land by draining. The top of this bank of sand is a dead level of at least 60 acres. It is of a circular form; and the sides, except on the east, are steep, and rise to a height of 70 or 80 feet. There are similar banks in the neighbourhood, but none of them are so well defined as this. They have very much the appearance of having been formed by water, and speculators in geology suppose that the low ground here has been covered by a lake of fresh water, in which these banks of sand were formed. They conjecture that the shore of the sea was much farther east than it is now, and as St Abbs Head, the Bell Rock, and the Redhead near Arbroath, are composed of the same species of red sandstone, they are probably points in what was formerly the shore of the German Ocean. Certain it is, that at St Andrews great encroachments have been made by the sea upon the land in no long period of time.

*Soil.*—The soil of a considerable portion of the parish is moorish and thin, of a cold tilly quality. Upon the sides of the hills, however, it is generally of a good fertile loam.

*Botany.*—Some rare plants are found here,—such as the *Ornithogalum luteum* or yellow star of Bethlehem; *Empetrum nigrum*, *Sedum reflexum*, *Hypnum dendroides*, *Menyanthes trifoliata*, *Parnassia palustris*, *Gymnadenia conopsea*. A good deal of wood, chiefly larch and Scotch fir, has of late years been planted on one of the hills. But either the soil, or the climate, or both are not favourable to the growth of these trees, for they soon become much covered with lichen or moss.



*Zoology.*—No rare species of animal or insect has been found here. In a pretty extensive marsh near the church, there used to be a great many wild ducks, snipes, green plovers, redshanks, and in winter, wild geese. These have in a great measure disappeared, in consequence of its having been drained. The open fields, however, are still much frequented by wild geese in winter, which sometimes do considerable damage to the young wheat. Partridges, hares, and rabbits abound, and there are a few pheasants, and even a strayed deer is sometimes to be seen. Yet poaching is seldom heard of, except when a poor hare makes a false step into a snare set for rabbits.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men.*—The only person of eminence in literature or science known to have belonged to this parish, is John West, author of a System of Mathematics, much esteemed by the scientific world. He was son of a minister who lived about the middle of the last century. Mr West became an Episcopal clergyman in the Island of Jamaica, and died a few years ago. He is said to have left some valuable mathematical papers, some of which, it is understood, the late Professor Leslie of Edinburgh intended to publish, along with a memoir of the author.

*Antiquities.*—There are no buildings, ancient or modern, of any importance, except the ruins of one of those square towers which the feudal possessors of the land seem to have erected, for the defence as well as residence of their families.

*Land-owners.*—The land is at present much subdivided,—no heritor possessing more than two farms, or from 500 to 600 acres. All the heritors are non-resident except two, who occupy their own farms. The following is a list of the heritors according to their valued rent:—William Mackenzie of Forret; Robert Lindsay of Straiton; David Gillespie of Cruvie; Trustees of the late Sir William Fettes of Denbrae; George Johnston Lindsay of Kedloch; John Millar Bowman of Logie; Walter Millar of Tor-Kedloch; Robert Russel of Tor-Forret; and Robert Murdoch of Tor-Forret.

*Rental.*—The rental of the two last is under L. 50. The whole valued rent of the parish is L. 2916, 6s. 8d. There is a considerable number of feuars, possessing from 1 to 8 acres. There are eight farms above 200 acres each, and four under 100.

## III.—POPULATION.

This parish, like many others, was formerly divided into smaller

farms, than it is now. This change tends, of course, to diminish the population; and, what has contributed to the same effect, fewer cottages are required upon farms, in consequence of unmarried being generally preferred to married servants. These causes of a decrease of population, however, have been in some measure counterbalanced by the encouragement given to feuing by some of the proprietors. Three small villages have arisen in this way. The advantages of feuing either to proprietor or tenant are very questionable. A higher rent may be obtained, but an unsound population is produced, and paupers, which the landholder must maintain, are increased in number. Man naturally wishes to be independent,—to have a house and a home which he can call his own. But the expense of building a house to a poor man, and a high feu-rent, often leave him nothing of independence but the name. This, however, many are compelled to do, or remove to towns, as neither proprietors nor tenants give much encouragement to the building and letting of cottages. This system weakens or dissolves that moral tie which should unite rich and poor, and widens that breach between them, which is ruinous to the peace and prosperity of both.

The population in 1831 was	430
at present is	410
Number of families,	100
persons under 15 years of age,	144
betwixt 15 and 30,	111
30 and 50,	97
50 and 70,	38
above 70,	20
bachelors and widowers above 50,	11
unmarried women above 45,	20
Average number of children in families,	4 $\frac{7}{7}$
births for last seven years,	9
marriages,	5
deaths,	7

Illegitimate births in the course of the last three years, 3.

*Habits and Character of the People.*—A great proportion of the inhabitants, both male and female, are employed in agriculture, and they are in general very sober and industrious, and are tolerably comfortable in their circumstances. Few of the farm-servants, indeed, have now the luxury of a cow; but they have each a Scotch pint of milk daily from their master's dairy, with a sufficient quantity of oat-meal and potatoes, and in general they fatten a pig or two annually for family use. It is, indeed, truly wonderful how well clothed, neat, and clean, large families are kept, and at the same time tolerably well educated, with the few pounds of wages received by farm-servants and other labourers. Much



depends upon the sobriety of the husband, and the good economy of the wife, and the good health which a kind Providence is pleased to bestow. The young unmarried servants are not in so comfortable a state. Their only food is oatmeal, milk, and some potatoes. They are lodged in an apartment called a *bothy*, by themselves, quite detached from their master's house, and in general entirely neglected by him as to moral inspection or religious instruction. The fatal consequence is, that too many of our youth in that rank of life have, for many years past, grown up in ignorance and vice; and the instruction which they may receive from clergymen is very inefficient, as a great proportion of them change masters every year.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish contains about 3343 acres imperial measure. Of these 2770 are arable, 307 unarable, 266 in wood. At an average 302 acres are annually in wheat, 465 in barley, 785 in oats, 128 in pease and beans, 149 in potatoes, 239 in turnips, 249 in grass, cut green and for hay, 660 in pasture, 42 in fallow.

The average annual produce per acre is, of wheat, 3 quarters 4 bushels; of barley, 4 quarters 4 bushels; of oats, 4 quarters 6 bushels; of pease, 3 quarters 2 bushels; of potatoes, 25 bolls, value about L. 10; of turnips, value about L. 7; of hay, 150 stones. Since the cultivation of potatoes became so extensive, a small proportion of land is in fallow.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent per acre is about L. 1, 18s., paid, in general, partly in money, and partly in grain, by the fiars of the county.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry, as in the adjoining parishes, or rather throughout the county, is upon the most improved plan, and conducted with great skill and industry. The mode of cropping is generally what is called a six years' rotation, alternating as regularly as possible green and corn crops. There is, however, an occasional deviation from this course, barley being sometimes sown after wheat in good soils. The practice of sowing turnip with bone manure has become very general; and on some farms, where the soil is light and dry, they are eaten down with sheep, which is a great improvement. It would also prove very beneficial to such soils, to allow them to lie in grass for pasture for several years. This would recruit them when exhausted by long-continued corn cropping. The want of inclosures, however, is unfavourable to this improvement.

The shortness of leases, too, is a great discouragement to enterprising farmers. For if a farm be in bad order when entered to, or need much draining, or require to be inclosed, a period of nineteen years, the almost universal term of leases, does not admit of a sufficient return for much capital expended in such improvements; and without these, the farm cannot be so productive as it would otherwise be, so that short leases, and even those of nineteen years, must be unfavourable both to proprietors and tenants. A lease of twenty-five or thirty years would certainly give greater encouragement to enterprise and improvement.

*Live-Stock.*—There are, on the different farms, 121 horses, 90 milk cows, 257 cattle from one to three years old, 114 pigs, 630 sheep. Many of the horses used in husbandry are reared upon the farms. They are not remarkably large, but well-shaped, stout, and active. A pair of work horses is required for every fifty acres. Iron ploughs are almost universally used. But as our roads are rather hilly, there are few single horse carts. Cattle also are, in general, reared upon the farms, at the rate of about fifteen per 200 acres. A regular proportion of these is fattened in winter by turnip, and then sold to the butcher at three years old. It may be more profitable to feed and sell them so young, but their flesh cannot be so good or nutritive as at a more mature age. Some farmers however, instead of rearing, buy in stock, and so either buy and sell at all ages, or buy so as to feed at four or five years old. The cattle reared are what is called the Fife breed, generally of a black colour, well-shaped, sometimes of great size and weight. A cross with the Teeswater breed has been tried, but it does not seem to be much approved of. The cows are not first-rate milkers, but the dairy is not much counted upon. The few sheep kept only on three farms are of various breeds,—black-faced, Highland, Cheviot, and Leicester, and crosses.

Farm-houses and steadings are tolerably good, though not, in general, equal to the extent of the farms, and to the capital, industry, and enterprise of the occupiers. The cottages are very poor uncomfortable habitations, but what have been lately built are considerably improved.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages is for men about 9s. a week in summer, and 8s. a week in winter; for women, by whom much field work is done, 4s. a week; for wrights, smiths, and masons from 12s. to 15s. a week.



## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

No turnpike road passes through any part of this parish, and there is no inn or alehouse in it. The nearest post-town is Cupar, distant about four miles and a half.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—There is no dissenting place of worship in the parish, and the Dissenters, who chiefly belong to what are called the Relief and Associate Synod, are not numerous,—seldom exceeding thirty individuals.

The parish church, which was built in 1826, is a very plain but commodious house, placed in a central situation. It is seated for 280, and none of the seats are let. Each heritor accommodates the people upon his own ground with seats. But though the church is sufficiently large for the population, there is still a want of seats in those divisions of the church which belong to heritors, who, by feuing their ground, have raised a greater number of people upon it than their proportion of the church can supply with seats. This is a hardship for which no legal remedy is yet provided. About one-half of the population regularly attend public worship on the Sabbath, and about one-third of them are communicants. No society for religious purposes is, at present, established in the parish. But there is, in general, an annual collection so appropriated, amounting to L. 6' or L. 7. The minister's stipend consists of 1 boll 2 pecks of wheat; 45 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks of barley; 39 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck, 1 lippie of meal; 29 bolls, 3 pecks, 3 lippies of oats; and L. 82, 12s. 2d. The teinds are valued and exhausted. The glebe is about 6 Scotch, or 7 acres 2 roods imperial measure, which may be valued at a rent of L. 12. A new manse was built in 1815, and offices in 1828; and both are in good condition.

*Education.*—There is only one school in the parish. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary,—with an addition of 50 merks Scots per annum,—a mortification of an old date by an heritor in the parish to the person then called the reader. The common branches of education, English reading, writing, and arithmetic, are taught. But the schoolmaster is qualified to teach English grammar, Latin, practical mathematics, and geography, and sometimes has a few scholars attending these higher branches. The fees per quarter are 2s., 2s. 6d., and 3s. The fees received by the teacher may amount to L. 15 or L. 20 per annum. There are none in the parish who cannot read, and few who cannot write, and are not also somewhat acquainted

with arithmetic. The children of the labouring classes are in general sent to school at an earlier period of life, and leave it sooner than formerly, so that, unless they are attended to by parents or masters, or have the benefit of a Sabbath school, they too soon forget what they have learned. A Sabbath school has been long taught in this parish, but is now attended chiefly by girls.

*Library.*—There is no public library for the use of the parish, but Sabbath scholars and others are supplied with a few appropriate books from the manse. There is, indeed, a library of some value belonging to a heritor, to which a certain class of the parishioners have access, if they choose to avail themselves of the privilege. But the very terms upon which it is granted, operate as an exclusion from the carefully secured treasure. The books, as well as the acres, are strictly entailed. The heir of entail is prohibited from lending a book to his neighbours; but he is bound to keep a suitable room for the library in his house, and to allow free access to it to the minister and other gentlemen, there to read and study, but all women and children are expressly excluded.

*Poor.*—The poor in this parish, whose average number is about 7, and who get from 4s. to 10s. per month, according to their circumstances, are supplied by collections at the church door, by the interest of a small sum of money, and voluntary contributions by the heritors. The collections and interest amount to L. 18 or L. 20, and nearly as much is contributed annually by the heritors. Instances of praiseworthy delicacy respecting dependence upon the poor's fund sometimes occur, but a very different feeling is evidently increasing. The session records and parish register are regularly kept. The date of the earliest is 1660.

*December 1837.*



## PARISH OF LARGO.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

REV. ROBERT BROWN, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries, Extent.*—THIS parish is bounded on the east by the parish of Newburn; on the west, by Scoonie; on the north, by Ceres; and on the south by Largo Bay, in the Frith of Forth. It extends from north to south nearly 6, from east to west an average of 3 miles, and contains 6820 imperial acres.

*Topographical Appearances, and Geology.*—It presents, throughout, an unusual variety of ground, being finely diversified by acclivities and plains. But the only hill deserving of that name is Largo Law, of a conical form, and rising 910 feet above the level of the sea, at a distance from it of two miles. At the summit, which is cleft in two, regular columns of basalt\* present themselves. The south side, which is very precipitous, is composed of basalt, the west and north-west of sandstone. The east slopes very gradually, and consists of soft tuffa and debris of water-worn rocks and gravel. To the west of Largo Law is a deep valley, named Keils Glen, extending two miles, composed of sandstone, with beds of shale, greenstone, with veins of felspar, calcareous spar, and wacke. The sea coast, which is the southern boundary of the parish, forms part of Largo Bay, which reaches from Kincaig point on the east, to Methill point on the west, making a straight line between them of 7 miles, and a semicircle of 10. In this bay, and especially in the eastern curve, are found very satisfactory evidences of a submarine forest. The neighbouring rocks are of the coal formation. The bed on which the forest rests consists of firmly laminated brown clay, covered with gravel and sand, above which is a bed of peat, composed of land and fresh water plants. In this bed have been discovered the remains of the birch, and hazel, and alder,—a trunk of the latter measuring six feet. Do not such appearances confirm the traditionary record which places the “Wood of Forth” in this locality?

\* A chemical analysis of the basaltic rocks of Largo Law has been published in the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal.

The shore is flat and sandy, with the exception of red sandstone and minute portions of coal near the surface. Lime and sandstone, with numerous boulders of trap, are found throughout the parish, the limestone lying below slate-clay, and ironstone being frequent in the sandstone bed. The limestone, in some, places is 15 feet thick, of a gray colour, and the superincumbent strata are generally argillo-calcareous rock, a bed of shale and sandstone. Organic remains are rare, although corallines and occasionally shells do occur. There is only one good freestone quarry, which is wrought at considerable expense, from the great thickness of earth above the rock. Many years ago, coal was wrought in large quantities, especially near the coast. At present, there are three seams wrought, but none of them are of the first quality. To the north of New Gilston a singular mass of rum coal is found, under the mass of overlying trap on the south. It is an inflammable bituminous shale, and is extensively used for lime-burning. It is known to be 80 feet thick, and is wrought in an open quarry. On the estate of Teuchats, in the north centre of the parish, is a limestone rock of excellent quality, and much esteemed for building. The working of it here had nearly ceased; but, a new level has been lately brought up, and a deeper cut in the lime commenced. It is carried on in the parish of Ceres, where the same bed runs to a great extent. The soil on the north is generally of a thick black mould, on a wet bottom; in the south, of a black loam, partly on a wet, and partly on a dry bottom—interspersed with fields of light land; rich breaking clay is peculiar to the south-east; and there are some tracks to the west of Largo Law, of a more obdurate nature, and on a wet bottom.

*Plantations, &c.*—In the north-east quarter, are extensive plantations of Scotch fir and larch. Interspersed among these, and particularly in all recent plantings, are varieties of hard-wood, as oak, ash, elm, beech, and plane. There is a grove of very ancient limes at Lundin House. The planes about Largo House are remarkable for their size; and several elms deserve notice for their singular and fantastic beauty. There do not appear to be any indigenous plants of a rare species. The subsoil in the more southerly gardens is rotten rock, and they are found very productive in fruit, especially pears, and favourable to the growth of plants, both of a hardy and tender kind. Shrubs from New Holland, as the *Leptospermum baccatum*, stand the winter well. The Acacia, and



the Azalea, both in several varieties, flourish. The *Arbutus Andrachne* ripens its fruit, and myrtles, in sheltered situations, are well carried through even severe seasons. A very marked difference prevails in the temperature of the atmosphere, between north and south, the latter being always several degrees warmer.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The most ancient and remarkable account of this parish is contained in Lamont's Diary, extending from 1649 to 1671, and embracing various genealogical and historical notices, with no small proportion of gossip. The writer was factor on the Lundin estate, and his work was first printed from his MS. in 1810, by Mr Constable, and again in 1830.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers consist of fourteen volumes. They commence in 1636, have been regularly kept, and are often very curious and full in their details of such parish transactions as the session took under their cognizance.

*Eminent Men.*—Among the most eminent characters connected with the parish is Sir Andrew Wood, a naval officer, to whom, by a charter under the Great Seal, of date 1482, James III. granted the barony of Largo, in acknowledgement of his brilliant achievements against the greatly superior force of the piratical vessels of England; and his son James IV. continued to hold him in deservedly high esteem, and employed him, both in war and diplomatic negotiations. Little is known of John Wood, founder of the hospital afterwards noticed, and to whom there is a monument in the churchyard wall, except that he was a cadet of the family of Largo, died in London in great difficulties, though leaving a large property, and was buried in Largo aisle, 22d July 1661.

In 1670, this barony, which, subsequently to Sir A. Wood, had been possessed by Mr Peter Black, and the Gibsons of Durie, was purchased from the latter in 1663, by Sir Alexander Durham, Lord Lyon King at Arms, for 85,000 merks. His brother was Mr James Durham, minister of the High Church, Glasgow, and distinguished both as an officer and a divine.

In the village of Low Largo, was born Alexander Selkirk in 1676. Being disgusted with the notice taken by the session, of a squabble which he had with his brother, he went to sea, and in 1703, being sailing master of the ship Cinque Ports, bound for the south sea, he was put or left on shore on the island of Juan Fernandez. He remained here, in entire solitude, four years and four months, when he was brought to England by Captain Woods Rogers.

De Foe found him about Wapping, and out of his story constructed Robinson Crusoe, the most entertaining and popular of all adventures. Alexander brought home the gun, sea-chest, and cap which he had with him on the desolate island, returned to sea after nine months, and was never heard of again.

The late Sir John Leslie was born in this parish in 1766, of respectable parents.\* He discovered an early predilection for mathematical and physical science, having with little aid qualified himself, in his thirteenth year, for the senior mathematic class in the University of St Andrews. In 1784, he entered as a student of Divinity at Edinburgh, but soon gave up all thoughts of the church as a profession, and devoted an interval of several years to private teaching, travelling and writing for periodical publications of the day. Becoming well known by his differential thermometer, completed in 1794, by his essay on Heat, published in 1804, and by other works published in Nicolson's Journal, and the Transactions of the Royal Society of London, he was elected Professor of Mathematics in the University of Edinburgh, in 1805; in 1809, Professor of Natural Philosophy; and in 1820, Corresponding Member of the Institute of France. He contributed largely to the new edition of the Encyclopædia Britannica; and in that, was published his last and best production, "The Progress of Mathematical Science in the eighteenth century." In 1832, he was created a Knight of the Guelphic Order, and in the November of that year he died, leaving the impress of his vigorous and original genius, whatever may be thought of his theories and reasonings, on his admirable instruments and experimental labours.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners in this parish are:

General James Durham of Largo, valued rent,	L. 3463	18	0
Captain Erskine Wenyns of Lundin,	2237	7	8
Lieutenant-Colonel Briggs of Strathearn,	419	14	8
James Wyld, Esq. of Gilston,	480	7	2
Captain Ker of Greenside and Balcomie,	311	12	9
Andrew Pitcairn, Esq. of Pratis,	301	10	10
Alexander Youngson, Esq. of West Gilston,	152	15	2
Lady Baird of Prestonfield,	184	10	3
Dundas Blair, Esq. of Teuchats,	101	11	6
David Millie, Esq. of Balhousie,	160	2	0

Sum, L. 7813 10 0

Real rent about L. 8500 0 0

Of these, five have residences in, and two bordering on, the parish. The handsomest house is that of Largo, built in 1750, very spacious, and commanding a rich and extensive prospect.

\* A biography of Sir John Leslie, by one of his colleagues in the University of Edinburgh, appeared in the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, Vol. xxiii.



*Antiquities.*—A circular tower of the old house, inhabited by Sir Andrew Wood, and said to have been, previously to his time, a jointure house of the Scottish queens, still remains. General Durham has lately put on it a monumental stone, with an inscription from Sir Andrew's charter.\* On the banks of the Kiel, a small stream, are the ruins of the Castle of Balcruvie, once possessed by the noble family of Crawford. In the centre of Lundin House, which is a modern erection, rises a square tower of great antiquity. The property of Lundin, which once embraced nearly the whole parish, was held by individuals of the name of Lundin, so early as the reign of David I. One of King William the Lion's sons, Robert, married the heiress, and in 1670, John Drummond, second son of the Earl of Perth, married the then heiress Sophia, after which the property remained in the united families of Perth and Lundin, now represented by Lady Willoughby D'Eresby, for a number of years subsequent to the attainder of the Earl of Perth in 1745, when it was disposed of; and it is now in possession of Captain Erskine Wemyss of Wemyss Castle, in right of his mother, daughter of the late Sir William Erskine, Bart.†

To the south and east of Lundin House are erected three unwrought stones of a triangular form, measuring six yards above, and, as it is thought, as much below ground, the solid contents of each being 270 feet. They bear no traces of any figure or inscription. By some, they are conjectured to be of Roman origin; by others, to be the gravestones of Danish chiefs, who fought here and were conquered by Banquo and Macbeth; and by others, perhaps, with most probability, to be Druidical remains. Ancient sepulchres are found near them. They are of red sandstone. Two pieces of the same species of stone, evidently belonging to each other, were found some years ago, a mile apart, on the south of Largo estate. They are now joined, and present the appearance of a carved cross, of which the transverse pieces are equal, surrounded by a carved circle, touching the extremities of each. Such stones are said to be extremely rare, one only being known

\* He has also erected this summer, on a handsome stage, an iron 32 pounder, belonging to the *Royal George*, which was wrecked in 1782. This gun, which was recovered in 1836, and presented to the General by the Board of Ordnance, is peculiarly interesting, as Admiral Sir Philip Durham, his brother, a native of the parish, and a distinguished officer, Commander-in-Chief at Portsmouth, now, and at the time when the gun was recovered, was a lieutenant, and on board of the *Royal George*, at the time of the wreck, and one of 70 who, out of 1200 persons, were rescued from that fatal calamity.

† The only descendants of the family of Lundin, bearing the name, are the Lundins of Auchtermairnie, in the parish of Kennoway.

in Britain, and a few in Denmark. On a rising ground to the north, called Norrie's Law, several antiquities in silver were discovered, together with a number of small silver Roman coins, bearing the stamp of the earlier emperors. They are now in the possession of General Durham. On the property of Balhousie, about forty years ago, were found, deposited eighteen inches beneath the surface, three earthen vases containing ashes, and near them some rude stone coffins, and the bones of a child.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population amounted in 1755,	to	1396
1801,	.	1867
1811,	.	1973
1821,	.	2301
1831,	.	2567
Males,	.	1210
Females,	.	1357
Males above twenty years of age,	.	606

The population formerly employed in sea pursuits, salt-works, and collieries, in the south, has no doubt been diminished; but the deficiency is far more than counterbalanced by the greater number of hands employed in the cultivation of the land, in manufactures, and in collieries in the north.

Of the whole, there may be considered as residing in villages, . 1761  
in the country, 806

It is to be regretted, that, from the registration of births not being compulsory, no accurate account of them can be furnished.

Average of deaths for the last seven years,	46½
of marriages,	19
Number of families,	590
children in a family,	4
inhabited houses,	479
uninhabited,	3
families employed in agriculture,	159
manufactures of all kinds,	343
all others,	97

Number of insane persons kept in an asylum, 4; of fatuous, 4; of blind, 3, and 2 children nearly so; of deaf and dumb, 3, one of whom is educating at the Edinburgh institution.

The proprietors of land of L. 50 and upwards are the heritors formerly mentioned, three of whom are resident.

There is nothing peculiar in the language or manners of the inhabitants. It argues well for their prudence and management, that with wages, as frequently happens, not exceeding 6s. or 7s. a-week, they are able to clothe, educate, and feed their families, pay their house rent, and defray other necessary expenses. Their general character, with exceptions which are found almost solely in the villages, may be considered as moral and becoming. Their kindness to each other in distress, it is always gratifying to witness;



and their attendance at religious meetings, besides the ordinary Sabbath services, is a favourable evidence of their religious character.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of acres in the parish in cultivation is,	5935
of pasturage lands,	290
of planting,	595

In general, the plantations consist of Scotch fir, larch, oak, elm, plane, ash, and beech. They thrive well, particularly the oak, if allowed sufficient room. On the north side of the parish, which is higher and of less value, the plantations, though mixed with various sorts of hard-wood, are chiefly Scotch fir and larch; the latter is rapid in its growth, and found to be very useful for many country purposes. The plantations are under good management, and regularly thinned, but the produce is small.

*Rent.*—The average rent of land may be reckoned at L. 2 per acre; the rate of grazing an ox depends on his weight and size,—at three years old, and weighing 40 superficial stones, he may be grazed for L. 2, 15s.; a milk cow, L. 3; and a full-grown Leicester sheep, 14s.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle generally bred are what is termed the Fife breed, but it is not considered pure. Of late, some farmers have bred from short-horned or Teeswater bulls, which is reckoned a great improvement, as the stock both milk well and feed well. No sheep are bred except for private use, and these are of the Leicester kind. Horses are reared chiefly for draught. Some of a superior kind have been bred lately from Yorkshire coaching horses, and have brought high prices for gentlemen's carriages. A considerable number of hogs are bred and fattened. They are of a smaller kind than formerly, being a cross of the Chinese, which are easily fattened, and meet with a ready market.

*Husbandry.*—There is little waste land in the parish, all having undergone some degree of improvement, although in some places much remains to be done. Increased attention is now given to draining; and considerable sums have been laid out on it, to great advantage. Furrow or surface drains are becoming frequent, and are highly approved. It is usual for the landlord to be at the expense of opening and filling them, whilst the tenant defrays the remainder. The general duration of leases is nineteen years. For the first fifteen, the tenant, though taken bound not to deteriorate the land by over-cropping, is otherwise unrestricted; for the last four, he is tied down to a certain management and rotation, according to

the nature of the ground, and particularly, to leave a proportion of it in grass, green crop, and fallow. The term of lease may be long enough in ordinary cases, but not sufficient to reimburse the tenant when great improvements have been accomplished at his expense. The farm-buildings are now generally commodious and suitable. Much has been done for their improvement, within twenty years. The farm-house ordinarily consists of two storeys, covered with tile or slate, and has the office-houses behind it, for the most part in the form of a square. There is only a small proportion of unenclosed ground in the parish, although some of the fences are very insufficient, and not well taken care of. More attention is now paid to them, and the ditches are occasionally scoured, and the hedges dressed and cleaned annually. No obstacles of material consequence oppose the agricultural improvement of the parish, except the low prices of produce for some years, which have barely enabled the tenant to pay his rent and his current expenses of cultivation.

*Fishery.*—Some years ago, a salmon stake-net fishery was commenced in Largo Bay. The rent paid to the proprietors of the different stations was one-fourteenth of the gross produce. The annual amount of the fish sold, on an average of five years, was only L. 130, and from the expense of erecting and keeping the nets, nearly half of the capital employed was lost. The undertaking has been resumed, and is now more prosperously carried on.

*Manufactures.*—There are two manufactures in the parish ; one water-mill for cleaning, and the other water and steam-mill for spinning flax ; the first employing 4, the second employing 85 hands. They work six days in the week, twelve hours per diem, and nine on Saturday. They afford a fair remuneration, and are not considered as particularly prejudicial either to health or morals.

*Shipping.*—Three small vessels only belong to the port of the parish. The trade carried on in old times, in coal, salt, iron, sandstone, &c. with Campvere and Rotterdam, and more recently in wood with Norway, being altogether at an end.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Towns, &c.*—Leven and Colinsburgh, each three miles distant from the Kirkton of Largo, may be considered as the market-towns of the parish, for although it has several bakers and brewers, it has never regularly supplied itself with butcher-meat. The several villages contain a population as follows,—Kirk-



ton, 413; Lower Largo, including Temple and Drummochy, 567; Lundin Mill, 453; Backmuir of Gilston and Woodside, 316.

*Means of Communication.*—Numerous means of communication are enjoyed by the parish. A daily post arrives and departs. The turnpike road passing through it exceeds eight miles. There is a daily coach from Cupar to Largo, except in the depth of winter; and at all seasons, one by Largo from Anstruther to Edinburgh, three times a week; and one also as frequently from St Andrews to Largo. A steam-boat plies twice a day in summer and once in winter between Largo and Newhaven. The harbour, formed by the influx of the Kiel into the Frith of Forth, is not in good order. Were it repaired, which might be done without much outlay, it would be one of the best on this side of the Forth, and were a low water or chain pier to be constructed, and a more level road made between this port and Cupar, not only would the neighbourhood be benefited, and the county town obtain a shipping port within ten miles, but the nearest and most direct communication would be opened between the capital and the north-east of Scotland, and a place of shelter afforded to vessels in storms, by which much property and life might be saved.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated most conveniently for the majority of the population, but at a distance of four or five miles from one-fifth of it. It was built in 1817; and in 1826, there was taken into the new building, an aisle belonging to the old, by which the spire is supported, bearing date 1623. It affords accommodation for upwards of 800, and there are no free sittings except 50, eight for the hospitalers, and the remainder for official persons.

There are considerable benefactions in the management of the session. The interest of L. 100, left by Mrs Wood, for the benefit of orphans; the interest of L. 600, left by the late Mr Kettle, writer in Edinburgh, one-half for the education of four poor children, to the parochial teacher, and one-half to as many persons as it will reach, none receiving less than L. 2, who have fallen from their former means, but are not on the poor's roll; and the interest of L. 500, to respectable widows, named Jameson, who have, and only as long as they have, children under sixteen years of age. This fund, from the want of applicants corresponding to the description, now exceeds L. 1100. No individual can receive more than L. 5 per annum.

The manse was built in 1770. A large addition, with a com-

plete set of new offices, was made to it in 1823, and another addition this summer, so that now there is none better in the county. The glebe and garden make up 5 acres, worth L. 20. For many years, L. 11 per annum has been paid to the minister in lieu of foggage. The stipend, exclusive of L. 10 for communion elements, has been, since the augmentation for crop 1830, 136 bolls of meal, and 136 barley, commuted at the fair prices, and amounting, for the last six years respectively, to L. 281, L. 228, L. 215, L. 212, L. 219, and for crop 1836, to L. 292.

There are two dissenting chapels, one belonging to the Relief, and the other to the Baptist persuasion, both situated at Lower Largo. Their ministers are paid by voluntary contribution. The number of families connected with the Establishment is 350—with Dissenters of all classes, 200; and there are not a few individuals unconnected with any religious persuasion. Divine service at the Establishment is generally well attended, and, there is reason to think, would be much better attended, were it not that more seats are given to tenants, or let out to others, than they or their families can occupy, and thus such as would fill vacant seats cannot obtain them,—an evil which here, and in many other places, calls loudly for redress. The number of communicants on the roll is 760. The number present in summer is about 600; and in winter, 500.

There were Societies for religious and charitable purposes, but it is found more expedient to have regular collections, several times a-year. The average amount collected for the last three years has been L. 30 per annum.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school, the teacher of which has the maximum salary, L. 34, 2s. 4d., more than the legal accommodations, and fees amounting to L. 20. Of three other schools, two have gratuitous salaries of L. 5 each from the heritors; and the fees of each will amount to nearly L. 40 per annum. The branches generally taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, mensuration, and occasionally Latin, book-keeping, and navigation. The expense, of course, varies, according to the branches taught; the lowest being 4d., the medium 1s., and the highest 7s. a month. The people are alive to the benefits of education; and there are few children of six years who have not been sent to school; and few above fifteen who cannot read. And though the distances from school are two and even three miles, this does not prevent attendance. Additional schools are not re-



quired except for this distance, which makes one in the north-west district very desirable ; but a more liberal remuneration would be a great boon to the unendowed teachers, who often suffer from non-payment of fees.

*Library.*—A subscription library has been established for a number of years, containing about 500 volumes. It has been less patronized of late than formerly, probably because there is a much greater number of periodical publications circulating at a small expense.

*Wood's Hospital.*—There is only one charitable institution, —Wood's Hospital. John Wood, a cadet of Sir Andrew's family, by deed of mortification, dated 7th July 1659, bequeathed L. 68,418 Scotch, to build and endow an hospital within the parish, for the maintenance of thirteen indigent and enfeebled persons of the name of Wood, besides a gardener, a porter, and a chaplain, with L. 17 a year. He appointed the Earl of Wemyss, the lairds of Largo, Lundin, and Balfour, together with the minister, and remanent members of the kirk-session, as patrons. The hospital was built in 1667, at an expense, Lamont says, of 9000 merks. This hospital was found in a state of great decay in 1830, and the patrons erected a new one, which is not only a commodious, but a very handsome and ornamental building, after a design by Mr James Leslie, civil-engineer. It cost in all L. 2000. It is fitted up for sixteen inmates, each having a sitting and a sleeping apartment. In the centre is a large hall, where they are convened to prayers, morning and evening ; above which, is a room for the meetings of the patrons. The annual allowance to each hospitaler is L. 15 paid monthly, and vegetables. The funds arise from the interest of L. 2000, and a farm, the rent of which averages L. 280.

*Societies.*—There were two Friendly Societies, but they were lately dissolved, having been found, like many in the neighbourhood, to be calculated on too low a principle.

*Savings Bank.*—A savings bank, gratuitously managed by the parochial teacher, has been in active operation since 1815. The average of the whole deposits is about L. 1200, and about L. 250 is annually invested and withdrawn. The investments are made by servants, labourers, weavers, and mechanics.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid, and regularly on the poor list, is 40, and their average allowance 1s. a week. The annual amount of collections at the church door for five years has been L. 37, L. 46, L. 35, L. 36, and L. 31, and of mortcloths L. 3 per annum. The

latter fund has been falling off, in consequence of a subscription mortcloth being most frequently employed. It used to be L. 8. Voluntary contributions are the only other source of income for the poor, and these, from the unwonted number of insane and fatuous persons of late, have been very high, amounting for three years, in 1835 to L. 100; in 1836, to L. 250; in 1837, to L. 100. Nevertheless, the heritors most wisely refrain from resorting to parochial assessment. It is desirable that this forbearance were met by a more general disposition, on the part of the people, to contribute to the funds of the poor, and also by a greater reluctance to resort to the aid of these funds. There are many in need, by whom relief will not be sought as a favour; by the majority, it is considered and claimed as a right.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—There are 4 inns and 16 licensed ale-houses in the parish. The latter are much more numerous than necessary, and unquestionably have a pernicious influence on the morals of many of the people. At the same time, it may be doubted if their being compelled to observe the regulations imposed on them by law more strictly, would prove beneficial, unless it were possible to prevent a most detrimental practice beginning here, and prevalent elsewhere, viz. their selling spirits, which are used not on the premises, but in private houses.

*Fuel.*—Scarcely any fuel except coal is consumed. It is obtained, in the parish, of an inferior sort at 6s.; and from Wemyss and Largo ward, at 10s. per ton, inclusive of driving.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

There can be no doubt that the general condition of the parish has been improved since the date of the last Statistical Account. Much has been done for it in every department of agriculture, and the common comforts of life are more extensively diffused. The gatherings at tent-preachings, which used to amount to 3000 and 4000 at every Sacrament, are now entirely unknown. Beggars, with whom the parish was wont to be infested, are now, by the exertions of a new system of police, scarcely ever seen. Religious animosities, which were carried to a disgraceful height, have greatly subsided. And withal, whilst it must be wished that family worship were more cultivated, the “honouring of all men” more practised, and their mental resources more employed by the body of the population, still they may be viewed as distinguished by shrewdness, and industry, and intelligence, and will no doubt participate in the progressive changes and improvements of the age.

*November 1837.*



## PARISH OF BALLINGRY.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES GREIG, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Origin of the Name.*—BALLINGRY is said to signify the village of the cross, and to be compounded of the Gaelic word *Bal*, a village, and the initials inscribed on crosses in the fields, *J. N. R. J. Jesus Nazarenus Rex Judæorum*, Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is irregular. It is about 4 miles in length, and 2 in breadth. It is bounded on the east by the parishes of Kinglassie and Auchterderran; on the south by Auchterderran and Beath; on the west by Cleish; on the north by Portmoak.

*Soil.*—The soil on the northern division of this parish is good; some of it dry and fit for any crop; on the south part it is of a cold bottom, but well adapted for pasturage, in which a great part of the land has been lying for many years.

*Wood.*—About 57 acres were planted, more than twenty years ago, with a variety of forest trees, on the south front of Binarty, the only hill in the parish, which is now a very thriving plantation, and a great ornament of the country. The larch soon rises above the other trees. Including the above, there are about 127 acres in planting on the estate of Lochore. A large ash tree on it was struck by the lightning, in August 1831, which shattered a thick branch, and rent the bark down to the earth. There are plantations on other properties in this parish.

### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.*—No vestige remains of the Roman Camp said to have been in this parish. Near its site is now the steading of the Chapel Farm.

*Parochial Registers.*—These commence in 1669, and contain registers of marriages, births, and deaths.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners in the parish are, The Earl of Minto, Lord Dundas, Sir Walter and Lady Scott, Sir

### III.—POPULATION.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Crops raised and time of Sowing.*—Oats is the grain most generally sown here; barley is also sown, and it is accounted the most profitable crop. There is also some wheat, and pease and



beans sown. Oats are sown in March or beginning of April, and early oats in the first of May; barley is sown in April. The most approved rotation is one crop of oats, then a green crop, and the third a crop of oats or barley, with grass seeds. The next crop is hay, and then pasture for some time. The different estates in the parish are bound thirle to Inchgaw mill.

*Coal and Limestone.*—In this parish two good coals are now working, which have an extensive sale. The limestone here is not good, and none of it is wrought at present. Lime is brought here from a distance of some miles.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—In 1831, a commodious church was built, sufficient for the inhabitants. The number of families attending the Established Church is 53, and that of Dissenters 16. The stipend was decerned by the Court in 1810, to be nine chalders of victual, half meal and half barley, and such a further quantity of victual as shall be equal to L. 45, 11s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. Sterling; but the full amount has not been drawn, as a process is still pending about the valuation of an estate in the parish. The amount of stipend converted into money is L. 209, 14s. 10d. The glebe extends to 8 $\frac{1}{4}$  acres.

*Education.*—A school and a house for the teacher, who has the maximum salary, was built in 1825. His school fees may amount to L. 7 Sterling yearly; and he has besides L. 2, 2s., and two bolls of oatmeal in lieu of garden ground.

*Poor Funds.*—The poor sustained a loss by exchanging their land for what was not so good as what they had. Their land is feued at L. 21 Sterling yearly. The collections at the church doors may average about L. 7 Sterling a-year. The number on the roll has been nine for some years, who receive from 3s. to 7s. a-month. A late proprietor left a legacy of L. 100 Sterling to the poor's fund. There is an infirm woman, who is very reluctant to be put on the roll, although she needs assistance. This is a singular case.

*Inns.*—There are two houses in which malt and spirituous liquors are sold by legal license, but in one of them none is given to such as are intoxicated. This laudable example is worthy of the imitation of all engaged in the sale of ardent spirits. Were it universally followed, society would derive the greatest benefit from it. The inhabitants are generally sober and industrious.

*December 1837.*

## PARISH OF ST ANDREWS.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. R. HALDANE, D. D. } MINISTERS.  
THE REV. GEORGE BUIST, D. D. }

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—PRIOR to the period of the introduction of Christianity into Scotland, the district of the country by which St Andrews is surrounded wore the aspect of a forest, in which a few patches of cultivated ground seem to have been interspersed. In this forest, the hog or swine in its wild state abounded; and from this circumstance, it was denominated by the Picts, who at that period occupied the east coast of Scotland, *Mucros*, *muc* in their language, which was the Celtic or Gaelic, signifying a sow or boar, and *ros*, a peninsula or promontory. The correctness of this derivation is confirmed by the fact, that near the eastern extremity of the parish, the village of Boarhills still retains the original name of the district, but translated into the modern language. The Picts at this period were a rude people, and their religious opinions and observances were regulated by the Druids. The early Scottish historians inform us, that, towards the close of the fourth century of the Christian era, a Greek monk named Regulus, from the province of Achaia, was directed in a vision to leave his native country in a ship, attended by a number of religious devotees, and carrying along with him certain of the bones or relics of the apostle Andrew. With this mandate he complied; and, after a long and dangerous navigation, he and his associates were shipwrecked near the spot where the city of St Andrews now stands, with the loss of every thing but their lives and the sacred relics. The appearance of men so different in their aspect from what they had been accustomed to witness, arrested the attention of the native inhabitants of the district, and information of the event was communicated to the sovereign of the country, then resident at Abernethy, his capital, in the vicinity of the junction of the Earne and Tay. The curiosity of the monarch was aroused at the intelligence, and



he resolved to visit the strangers in person. He was fascinated with their appearance, and conversation, and doctrine. He was induced by them to abandon his idolatrous notions, and to become a convert to the Christian faith; and many of his subjects, impressed with the same sentiments, followed his example. To manifest his gratitude to his new spiritual guides, he put them in possession of a proper place of residence, with an extensive territorial domain; and he erected for them a chapel and tower, which some writers imagine are the same which still subsist in a good state of preservation in the immediate vicinity of the ruins of the cathedral, and which still bear the name of the Grecian saint. To commemorate the happy change which their arrival and preaching had been the means of introducing, the King changed the name of their place of residence from Mucros to Kilremonth, which means the cell or chapel of the King on the mount, according to some of the ancient authorities; and afterwards to Kilrule, the cell or chapel of Regulus or Rule. This last name was retained so long as the government of the Picts was recognized; but when their territories were subjugated by the Scots under Kenneth II. that prince, who recognized the apostle Andrew as his patron saint, altered the name of the place where his relics were deposited to St Andrews, the name which it still retains. The Pictish designation, however, is still adhered to by the Highlanders of Scotland, who employ the Gaelic language.

*Extent.*—The parish of St Andrews is about 10 miles in length, but the medium breadth is not quite 2 miles, the area comprehending a space of between 17 and 18 square miles.

*Boundaries.*—It is bounded on the north by the Eden, which separates it from the parish of Leuchars, till it reach the German Ocean; and by the ocean, from that point to its eastern extremity; on the east, by the stream denominated Kenloway or Kenly, which separates it from the parishes of Kingsbarns and St Leonards; and by the parishes of Dunino, Cameron, Ceres, and Kemback, on the south and west.

*Topographical Appearances.*—No part of the parish rises to a great elevation, the hills of East and West Balrymonth, which are the highest in the eastern division, being, the former, 360, and the latter, 375 feet above the level of the sea, as ascertained by accurate barometrical measurements; and the hill of Clatto, in the western division, rises to the elevation of 548 feet. The low and flat lands in the parish extend to from 600 to 800 acres, more than

the half of which are in a regular course of tillage, and the remainder form the links or downs, which extend from the estuary of the Eden to the vicinity of the city, and which, while they are highly useful as a place of recreation for the citizens, afford also pasture for sheep.

A few years ago, there were several caves among the rocks overhanging the sea in the vicinity of the castle. Their dimensions were but small, and they bore strong marks of being, partly at least, artificial. But in consequence of the encroachments of the watery element on this part of the coast, they have now almost entirely disappeared. About a mile to the east of the city, in the cliffs which bound the ocean, there is a natural cave of considerable dimensions, which is usually denominated Kinkell cave. It penetrates from seventy to eighty feet inwards, with a breadth in the centre of about twenty-five feet, and a height on the west side of ten or eleven feet; but the roof, which seems to consist of a single stone forming throughout a perfect plane, dips so much towards the east as to terminate in the floor, forming with it an acute angle. Part of the floor and the west side, where there is a constant dropping of water from the roof, are covered with plants, which continue to grow to nearly forty feet from the entrance, which is much more contracted than the cave itself. This cave is easily accessible, and it is frequently visited, especially during the summer months, by the citizens and their visitants.

The sea-coast of this parish is about six miles in extent, of which two to the north and east of the city are low, consisting of sandhills of little elevation, which form the eastern boundaries of the links; and the remaining four are elevated from 50 to 100 feet, in some places perpendicular, and presenting only the sandstone rock; but in others, where layers of clay and other loose materials alternate with the rock, the declivity is less abrupt, and the surface presents a covering of grass, with a variety of other native plants and stunted shrubs interspersed. In this line of coast, there are several insulated rocks of considerable dimensions, as the Maiden Rock, which is skirted by the sea, and which rises, like an irregular piece of masonry, to a height of about forty feet, from a base of about the same extent, and from six to twelve feet in thickness. The rock and spindle at Kinkell are striking objects, and will be afterwards alluded to; and the Buddo Rock, in the vicinity of Boarhills, is also calculated to arrest the attention.

*Meteorology.*—The following table, which was constructed with



much care and accuracy by the late much lamented Dr Jackson, Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of St Andrews, from observations of the thermometer for eight years, at 10 A. M. and 10 P. M. daily, at a station elevated about seventy-eight feet above the mean level of the sea, and with a northern exposure, will afford a correct view of the mean temperature of the several months of the year at St Andrews, in Latitude  $56^{\circ} 20' 30''$  north, and Longitude  $2^{\circ} 47' 30''$  west.

	1821.	1822.	1823.	1824.	1825.	1826.	1827.	1828.	Mean of 8 years.
Jan. .	37°.851	39°.974	35°.632	40°.839	30°.072	34°.845	36°.707	40°.871	37°.099
Feb. .	39.375	40.994	34.564	40.284	39.500	41.982	35.531	40.562	39.099
March,	40.987	43.456	39.919	39.741	41.750	42.346	40.734	44.269	41.650
April,	47.041	46.525	43.876	46.341	47.683	48.126	46.058	46.342	46.499
May, .	47.603	52.097	51.562	51.161	49.471	52.892	51.585	53.028	51.175
June, .	52.740	58.642	53.758	54.467	57.323	64.063	57.780	59.837	57.326
July, .	57.863	58.681	57.366	60.331	61.174	64.766	60.679	60.596	60.182
August,	58.608	58.348	56.705	57.645	60.508	62.295	58.437	60.712	59.157
Sept. .	56.716	52.276	53.670	55.077	58.216	56.267	56.620	57.244	55.761
Oct. .	49.255	48.585	46.621	47.281	50.438	50.403	52.484	50.172	49.409
Nov. .	42.665	44.463	45.980	40.989	39.467	39.845	43.612	46.396	42.927
Dec. .	40.153	37.619	38.369	38.395	39.419	40.817	42.662	44.253	40.209
Mean an. temp.	47.571	48.473	46.502	47.712	47.918	49.887	48.574	50.357	48.374

The last number in the table, viz.  $48^{\circ}.374$ , is the mean annual temperature taken as the mean of the mean monthly temperature for the above eight years.

The climate of the parish is dry and healthy. The swamps and morasses which existed at a former period, in the low grounds, have been thoroughly drained. The situation of the city is particularly salubrious, the soil being dry, and elevated from 60 to 70 feet above the level of the sea. The south-west is the prevailing wind for the year; but in April and May the east wind generally predominates. It is then, as over the greater part of the east coast of the kingdom, peculiarly piercing and chilly, and is regarded as injurious to persons of a delicate constitution.

From a report in manuscript drawn up in 1827 by one of the physicians established in the city, the following excerpts will afford an idea of the state of the city, so far as the health of its citizens is concerned: "The great width of the streets, and the extensive gardens interspersed, afford the fullest ventilation; and, except in some of the narrow closes, there is no obstacle to the admission of pure air into the houses of the inhabitants. There are no common sewers for the reception of rain water in the streets, the whole

being conducted in open gutters. I notice this, as several authors of topographical sketches reckon the stagnation of the putrid water in these sewers as the cause of unhealthiness in many large cities. We have no table of the ages to which the inhabitants live, but I am persuaded that the average of years is greater than in most other towns. In 1814, there were alive, within twenty doors of each other, not fewer than six persons, the youngest of whom was above ninety. Epidemic diseases are scarcely known in the city. During a residence of nearly twenty years, I have not known typhus fever epidemic within it, though it has prevailed in the neighbouring districts. In 1810, it was very prevalent in the parish, particularly in the western division, where, in one small village, I had at one time nearly 70 patients, while in the city there were few or none. The same took place in 1818, when St Andrews seemed to be the only place in the united kingdom which was not visited by that epidemic. Intermittents are rare, but I have seen several cases; all, however, from a distance. The exanthemata have been occasionally prevalent, but seldom have proved very fatal. In 1816, there were about 120 cases of well-marked scarlet fever, of which only 8 or 9 died; and, though measles and hooping-cough prevailed the same year, the number of deaths that year was not beyond the average. In 1826, measles were very prevalent, and the mortality was much greater, the number of deaths being nearly 40 above the usual average. Measles had not appeared in St Andrews during the preceding nine years, and a great number of children were affected, many of whom fell victims to the secondary symptoms. Inflammatory complaints, especially of the chest, are of frequent occurrence, but do not appear to be more severe than in other parts of Scotland. Rheumatism, in the acute form, is a frequent complaint. I think that the number of cases of hæmoptysis and of phthisis is smaller than in the neighbouring districts, owing, perhaps, to the want of manufactures. Catarrh is a frequent complaint, and I have often seen it contagious. The amusement of golf, which is general with all ranks, is the best prophylactic in preventing dyspepsia and hypochondriasis, which occasionally occur."

The following table contains a statement of the amount of the rain which fell at St Andrews in 1835 and 1836, as ascertained by Dr Jackson's rain-gage, elevated  $6\frac{2}{3}$  feet above the level of the ground:



		1835.	1836.
January,	-	0.53	2.27
February,	-	2.48	1.23
March,	-	1.80	4.45
April,	-	1.215	2.17
May,	-	1.655	0.64
June,	-	1.10	1.60
July,	-	1.38	4.48
August,	-	3.12	2.07
September,	-	4.19	3.60
October,	-	1.99	3.28
November,	-	3.05	5.78
December,	-	1.77	2.43
Total in inches,		24.28	34.00

*Hydrography.*—Springs are to be found in the various districts of the parish; but with the exception of one nearly a mile to the east of the city, at the foot of the rocky eminence which skirts the ocean, and another on the lands of Bonytoun, both of which are impregnated with iron, they have nothing remarkable in their appearance or properties. The temperature of a well, at the depth of 21 feet below the surface of the ground, in the immediate vicinity of St Salvator's College, was carefully examined by Dr Jackson, during the years 1821, 1822, and 1823, when its medium was found to be 46°.951, Fahrenheit, while the medium temperature of the air for the same years was 47°.265.

Two small streams have their origin in the parish, and fall into the sea, the one on the south-east, and the other on the north-west of the city. The course of the larger does not exceed five miles; it passes through the harbour, after having previously communicated motion to the machinery of several corn-mills. The other stream is much smaller, and is not applied to any useful purpose. The Eden, which forms the northern boundary of the parish for about four miles, and which enters the German Ocean a mile and a-half to the north of the city, has altogether a course of about twenty-five miles. And the course of the Kenly, which forms another of the parish boundaries, is from six to eight miles. The tide flows up the Eden about four miles, when its farther progress, except at high spring tides, is prevented by Nydie mill-dam, which forms the boundary of the parish in that direction. For nearly the half of this distance, it has a considerable estuary, which is covered by the sea at high water, and is then navigable for vessels of an hundred or an hundred and twenty tons. But when the tide retires, the greater part of it presents a surface of soft mud and sand. As the course of the river through it is winding, and as there is also a bar at the entrance from the sea, the assistance

of a pilot becomes necessary for its safe navigation. Towards its centre it contains extensive beds of cockles and mussels. The former are collected and disposed of as a wholesome article of diet, and the latter are sometimes applied to this use, but they are chiefly employed as bait by the fishermen, not only of St Andrews, but of most of the fishing stations within the range of twenty or thirty miles. There are no lakes nor cascades within the limits of the parish.

*Geology.* \*—The geology and mineralogy of the parish are possessed of considerable interest, in consequence of the extent of rocky coast by which it is bounded on the north. The prevailing strata are sandstone, containing thin seams of coal, and strata of slate clay, with courses of clay ironstone; thus indicating that the whole group belongs to the carboniferous series. That they form the lowest members of that series, is, however, no less certain, both from the character of the strata on which they rest, which do not belong to the coal formation at all, and from their deficiency in carboniferous matter.

The sandstone is of a grayish-yellow colour. The general dip of its strata, where their bearings are most uniform, is towards the south. But in these places, especially those that lie to the eastward of the town, from the agency of causes concerning which there are differences of opinion, all uniformity of dip and direction has either been originally prevented, or subsequently destroyed. The most curious convolutions and tortuous windings among the strata are everywhere to be observed; while in some places, on the other hand, all traces of stratification vanish. So variable also is the state of adhesion among the particles of the rock, that in one place a mass will be found quite friable, and in another, not an hundred yards distant, another mass almost as hard as flint. In this sandstone, globular and botryoidal masses of iron pyrites are of frequent occurrence, and those vegetable organic remains which are usually met with in analogous strata are in some places abundant.

The sandstone strata are very frequently separated by strata of slate clay, in which the vegetable impressions proper to that rock, when associated as here, are of occasional occurrence. And what gives the slate clay a certain degree of economic interest, are the courses and thin beds of clay ironstone which it usually con-

\* For the information contained in this section, the writer of this article is indebted to the Rev. John Macvicar, A. M. late Lecturer on Natural History in the United College of St Andrews.



tains, and which, at a time when the iron trade was more profitable than it is now, were sometimes collected and sent off to the Carron Ironworks.

At the place to the north-west of the town named the Witch-lake, the phenomena now described may be observed. But it is chiefly on the coast to the eastward that geological phenomena of interest are displayed. Of these, the constant varying direction of the strata and character of the rock are very remarkable. But what seems most worthy of notice in this place is a curious mass of trap tuff, about a mile and a half from St Andrews, of which the remains constitute the rock well known by the name of the Rock and Spindle. Besides this mass, other portions of trap, as might be expected, occur in various quarters of the parish, but as they present nothing peculiar in their character, it were needless to describe them minutely. That the Rock and Spindle, however, is possessed of no small interest, will be perceived from the following account of it extracted from a paper on the mineralogy of the neighbourhood of St Andrews, by the Rev. Dr Fleming, and found in the second volume of the *mémoires* of the Wernerian Society. "The most curious circumstance which attracted my notice in examining this bed of tuff, was the rock which is well known in the neighbourhood of St Andrews, by the name of the Rock and Spindle. This rock is about 40 feet in height. Towards the base there is a spherical concretion of basalt in the form of five or six-sided pyramids meeting at the apex, giving to the mass a stellate appearance. The mass is likewise divided not in concentric layers. The basalt contains crystals of augite with olivine and glassy felspar. This concretion of basalt is surrounded with the tuff, into which it gradually passes, and must have been completely enveloped in it previous to its partial wasting away by the action of the sea, and of the atmosphere. It may be mentioned in this place, that the regular basaltic columns at Ely, are a portion of a spherical concretion contained in trap tuff. Here the concretion is only about ten feet in diameter; at Ely it is several hundred feet." P. 153. This statement and explanation of Dr Fleming, it is proper to add, is by a later observer, Mr R. H. Cunningham, held to be incorrect: that geologist maintaining that the basalt of the Rock and Spindle is not a contemporaneous concretion of basalt, but part of a vein, and of after formation to the tuffa.

*Zoology.*—Of the animals which formerly existed in this parish, and which have now disappeared, the wild hog or boar was the

most remarkable. These were so abundant, at a remote period, in the district, that their name, as has been already remarked, was incorporated with its designation. At present there appears to be nothing connected with the zoology of the parish of a peculiar character, the animals, both wild and domestic, resembling those which are to be found in the other districts of the country. Within these few years, the small insect denominated the American bug has been very injurious to the apple trees in the city and its vicinity, and no remedy that has hitherto been employed has proved effectual for securing its destruction.

The Eden, between the Guard Bridge and the sea, is during the winter season the resort of a great variety of water-birds; and during the recess of the tide, a great many species of marine animals are to be found among the rocks on the shore. After certain storms also, not a few species of shells are cast on the west sands. But the bottom of the bay is generally sandy, and rather unproductive of organic forms. On comparing the number of species which it yields with those of the Frith of Forth, it may be said that it affords an illustration of the remark, that organized beings are much more abundant in estuaries than in bays.

The species of shell-fish which are of importance here, in an economical point of view, are the cockle and mussel, which abound in the estuary of the Eden, and the lobster and crab, which are found on the rocky shore between the city and the eastern extremity of the parish.

*Botany.*—But few rare plants flourish in this district, and none of them seem to be deserving of particular notice. The close plantations which exist in the parish are in general of the Scotch fir, and are on the poorest of the soils, but they are of no great extent. In the vicinity of some of the landed proprietor's houses, the oak, the elm, the beech, the plane, the larch, and some other species of trees have been introduced. The ash is more generally diffused over the district than any other species of tree, its timber being very useful for the construction of agricultural implements.

The landward part of the parish is not remarkable for its botanical riches; but on the cliffs and banks which stretch towards the east on the sea shore, several of the rarer flowering plants and many interesting species of mosses and lichens occur. The rocks between high and low water-mark are also covered with sea-weeds, and furnish many species. But here again it may be remarked, that from the very friable nature of the sandstone, of which many of these rocks are composed, the marine botany of the parish is pre-



vented from rivalling either that on the southern side of Fifeness, or on the northern shore at Aberbrothwick.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of the parish at large no ancient nor modern history has been traced. The city being the seat of the Archbishop and metropolitan of the kingdom, and of the earliest of its universities, is frequently referred to in the annals of Scottish history. No detailed account, however, of any of its institutions appears to have been drawn up prior to the days of Martine, who was secretary to two of the archbishops previous to the Revolution, and who has exhibited in his work entitled *Reliquiæ Divi Andree*, a mass of valuable information, relative to the religious establishments of the city. This production remained in manuscript for more than a century, and it was at last printed in a handsome manner at St Andrew's in 1797, by the University printer. About ten years afterwards, the Rev. Mr Grierson, minister of the parish of Cockpen, published his *Delineations of St Andrews*, in which he exhibited a particular account of every thing remarkable in the history and present state of the city and ruins, the University, and other interesting objects of this ancient ecclesiastical capital of Scotland. And in 1822, he published a second edition of his work with considerable corrections and additions. This production furnishes a comprehensive view of the ancient and modern state of the city, and of its institutions, and is a useful manual both to the citizens, and to occasional visitants. A short account of the city and its institutions has also appeared in Chambers's Gazetteer of Scotland.

*Historical Events.*—The principal historical events in which the city and parish of St Andrews are concerned, will be found in the accounts of the institutions to which they refer. In addition to these, it may here be stated, that after Edward I. had subjugated Scotland, he summoned the members of the Scottish Parliament to meet him at St Andrews, where he compelled them to swear allegiance to him. And that a few years afterwards, they again assembled at this city, and recognized the claims of Robert Bruce to the Scottish throne. When Edward III., with his victorious forces, overrun and subdued the greater part of Scotland, he placed a garrison in St Andrews; but after his return to England, many of his new conquests were wrested from him. Among others, the city and Castle of St Andrews were besieged and taken after a short resistance, and the fortifications of the latter were in a great measure destroyed.—In 1401, the unfortunate Duke of Rothsay was imprisoned in the

Castle of St Andrews, by his uncle, the Duke of Albany, the Regent of the kingdom, previous to his removal to Falkland, where he was starved to death.—A few years afterwards John Resby and Paul Craw, were committed to the flames at St Andrews, for propagating what was then held to be heretical doctrine.—In 1471, the Bishop of St Andrews was invested by the Pope with archiepiscopal dignity, and this his successors in office, whether of the Romish or of the Protestant faith, afterwards retained.—After the tenets of the Reformation had begun to be disseminated in Scotland, several individuals were tried at St Andrews, as supporters of the new opinions, and condemned to the flames. Among these were Patrick Hamilton, Abbot of Fearn, and nephew to the Earl of Arran; and George Wishart, son of the proprietor of Pittarrow, in the Mearns, whose cruel and untimely deaths were greatly lamented by the community at large. The celebrated George Buchanan avoided a similar fate, by escaping from imprisonment in the Castle of St Andrews.—These events were followed by the murder of Cardinal Beaton in 1546, and the subsequent siège, surrender, and partial demolition of the castle, which had been garrisoned by the conspirators. Two of what, it is supposed, were cannon balls, employed at that siege, were some years ago found by some young men among the rocks in the immediate vicinity of the castle. They are now in the custody of the Professor of Chemistry, and were covered when found, with a calcareous incrustation. The one of them had undergone a considerable alteration, being soft on the surface, and resembling a carburet of iron, while the other retained its original hardness.—In June 1583, James VI. escaped from the influence of the noblemen who had placed him under personal restraint at Ruthven, by entering the Castle of St Andrews, where he was soon joined by a number of his well-affected subjects. This prince frequently visited St Andrews while he remained in Scotland; and when, after his accession to the English throne, he returned to it in 1617, St Andrews was by no means overlooked. Here he had directed the prelates, and a number of the influential clergy, to meet him, that he might unfold to them his views, relative to subsequent ecclesiastical arrangements.—In 1645, the Scottish Parliament held its meetings in St Andrews, and among other proceedings condemned to death Sir Robert Spottiswood, son of the archbishop of that name, and three other gentlemen who had supported the royal cause, and had been taken prisoners at the battle of Philiphaugh, and who were afterwards executed in the principal street of the city.—In May 1679, James Sharp, Archbishop of



St Andrews, who had been a zealous supporter of the measures of the Court, against the opponents of Episcopacy, was murdered at Magus Muir, near the western extremity of the parish, by a party of the Covenanters, who had assembled not for this purpose, but for the avowed object of waylaying and destroying the Sheriff-substitute of the county of Fife, who, instigated by the Archbishop, had been a violent persecutor of the Presbyterians, who resided within the limits of his jurisdiction. The murderers escaped, but in the month of November following, five of the insurgents, who had been taken prisoners at the battle of Bothwell Bridge, were executed, and their bodies were hung in chains, at the spot where the murder had taken place. A stone was afterwards erected in the immediate vicinity, with an inscription commemorative of their fate, which is still visited by many who feel an interest in the events.

*Maps, &c.*—No map or survey of the parish has been discovered by the writer of this article, nor any letters, papers, or documents tending to illustrate the history, biography, or antiquities of the parish, with the exception of the productions already alluded to, and the documents in the possession of the city functionaries, the colleges, and the church and commissary courts. Many of these are highly interesting to the antiquarian; but any detail of their contents, that might be satisfactory or useful, would swell out this article far beyond all reasonable limits.

*Eminent Men.*—Many eminent characters have been connected with this parish by birth, residence, or burial. Previous to the establishment of the Reformation in Scotland, many of the bishops, archbishops, and priors of St Andrews were distinguished by their abilities, and by their influence in the counsels of the nation. And many of the individuals connected with the university were possessed of great learning and of high talents. Towards the middle of the tenth century, Constantine III. King of Scotland, after a long reign, in which he had ultimately experienced many reverses in his wars with the English, wearied of his high rank and eminence, retired from the world, and took up his residence among the Culdees of St Andrews, A. D. 950, becoming the prior or abbot of the order; an office which he exercised during the remainder of his life.

The prelates who occupied the important see of St Andrews were in general connected with the first families of the kingdom. They were distinguished by their talents, as well as by their education. To them the city was indebted for its most remarkable edifices and institutions, such as the erection of its cathedral, its

priory, and its castle, and the establishment of the university and its colleges. A considerable number of them left behind them specimens of their literary talents. Thus Turgot, who is styled by Martine, the tutelary saint of Archangel, and who was Bishop of St Andrews about the commencement of the twelfth century, composed in Latin a variety of historical works, chiefly referring to the affairs of Scotland. Of one of these, viz. his Chronicle of Scottish Affairs, Fordun's *Scoto-Chronicon* forms the continuation; and whoever is anxious to ascertain the titles of the literary productions of the other prelates, may have his curiosity gratified by consulting Dempster's *Ecclesiastical History of the Scottish nation*, where he will find them detailed under their respective names. In the same production, he will find an enumeration of the writings of such of the priors of St Andrews, professors of the university, and other individuals connected with the ecclesiastical establishments, as turned their attention to literary pursuits. Of these the most celebrated as literary characters were Andrew Wyntown, one of the canons of the Augustinian Monastery toward the close of the fourteenth century, and the author of a poetical chronicle of Scotland, composed not in the Latin language, which was the usual vehicle of the period, but in the vernacular language of the country; and which existed in manuscript only until 1795, when it was printed; and John Major, Principal of St Salvator's College towards the middle of the sixteenth century, whose history of his country, in six books, though written in a rude style, and though it embraces many erroneous and fabulous statements, displays at the same time much boldness of spirit. This writer freely censures the usurpations of the Roman hierarchy, together with the indolence and sensuality that were, at that period, so generally prevalent among the members of the ecclesiastical orders. His theological works, which were voluminous, particularly his *Decisiones Sententiarum*, were held in high estimation by the theologians of the age.

After the Reformation, the splendour of the religious establishments at St Andrews was greatly curtailed,—a large portion of their revenues having been alienated to different purposes. The succeeding prelates were in consequence of a less influential character, and less distinguished by their family connections. But in general, they were men of respectable talents. The most distinguished among them as a writer was Spottiswood, the historian of the Church of Scotland. Of the members of the university who distinguished themselves between the Reformation and the



Revolution, were the celebrated George Buchanan, who was for several years Principal of St Leonard's College; Andrew Melville, Principal of St Mary's College, the zealous and steady champion of Presbyterianism, whose life, opinions, and exertions in the cause of religion, have been so ably detailed by Dr M'Crie; Samuel Rutherford, Professor of Divinity and Principal of St Mary's College, who was one of the members of the Assembly of Divines at Westminster, during the civil wars, and whose religious publications are still popular in Scotland.—James Wood, Professor of Divinity, the author of several controversial works, which display much acuteness; Robert Blair, one of the ministers of the city, and one of the leading members of the church during the troubles of the times; and James Gregory, Professor of Mathematics, the celebrated inventor of the Gregorian telescope.

Since the era of the Revolution, among the learned men who have contributed to support the lustre of the university, we meet with the names of Thomas Halyburton, Professor of Divinity, and author of several popular and controversial works; Principal Hadow, who distinguished himself in the controversy relative to the work entitled "The Marrow of Modern Divinity;" Principal Tullideph, who left behind him a valuable paraphrase and notes on the New Testament, which remain still in manuscript; Professor Wilkie, the author of the *Epigoniad*; Principal Watson, the historian of Philip II.; Professor Baron, the author of *Lectures on Belles Lettres and Logic*, and some other productions; Dr Wilson, the author of a valuable *Hebrew Grammar*; Dr James Playfair, the author of the elaborate systems of chronology and geography which bear his name; Dr George Hill, who for many years was the leading member of the General Assemblies of the Church of Scotland, and whose valuable *Lectures on Divinity* were published after his death; Dr Adam Ferguson, the historian of the Roman republic, who spent the close of his life in the city that was endeared to him by his early associations; and Dr Andrew Bell, the founder of the Madras or national system of education, who was a native of the city, and who has left behind him most substantial proofs of the regard which he felt for its welfare and prosperity.

Had the limits allotted to this article permitted, this section of it might have been materially enlarged, by additional names, and by a train of illustrative remarks.

*Heritors.*—The *Heritors of the parish* form a numerous body. Those of the Priory alone are nearly 100 in number; and in the re-

maining part of the parish they amount to nearly 60. Three of them, viz. John Whyte Melville, Esq.; James Home Rigg, Esq.; and the United College, have each a valued rent exceeding L. 1200 Scots. Mrs Cheape of Strathtyrum; Alexander Meldrum, Esq. of Kincaple; General Ramsay of Kinkell; and John A. Thomson of Charleton, have each a valued rent between L. 600 and L. 1200. The valuation of nine other heritors exceeds L. 300 each, and of twenty-four the valuation is from L. 100 to L. 300.

*Parochial Registers.*—The oldest volume of the *kirk-session records* commences with the year 1559, and comprehends the transactions of that body down to the year 1600. It presents many curious and interesting details relative to the administration of church discipline, and other parochial arrangements, at that early period of the history of the Reformed Church. The volume containing the proceedings from 1600 to 1638 has been lost, but from the latter of these dates, down to the present time, the minutes have been preserved. The existing register of births and baptisms begins with the year 1626, and has been continued to the present time, with the exception of the entries from 1738 to 1742, which have been lost. The register of contracts, proclamations, and marriages, begins with the year 1770, and that of deaths with 1740, and both have been continued to the present day. The keeper of these records, however, states, that they are defective to a very considerable extent, as, notwithstanding all the means that are employed by him to ensure the registration of the births, many of the parents neglect this part of their duty. And when the dead are buried in other cemeteries, there is no return of the interment made to him, and no entry in his books.

It is much to be regretted that the keepers of the ecclesiastical records in Scotland have been so negligent, that in many of the parishes they are not to be found of an older date than a century, or a century and a-half. It is probable that many of the volumes of these records, which are supposed to be lost or destroyed, might still be recovered, were the ministers of the parishes to institute a diligent inquiry respecting them. A number of years ago, the writer of this article discovered, in the course of an investigation, the minutes of the Diocæsan Synod of St Andrews, commencing with the year 1611, and containing the proceedings of that court for above twenty years, which he was enabled to place in the custody of the clerk of the synod of Fife. And within these few years, he accidentally discovered the volume containing the proceedings of the presbytery of St Andrews from October 1586



to December 1605. This is a highly interesting record, as it furnishes many details relative to the proceedings of Andrew Melville and his associates, that are not to be found in any printed work. This volume does not appear to have been in the hands of the presbytery clerks for more than a century. During the first six years of the period which it embraces, the presbytery of St Andrews comprehended also the parishes which now form the presbytery of Cupar, the first erection of the latter presbytery not taking place until October 1592. This volume has not yet been put into the hands of the presbytery clerk, but it is hoped that this will ere long be effected ; and if this expectation should not be realized, a transcript of it which has been made will be lodged with the other records.

*Antiquities.*—*The Chapel and Tower of St Regulus* are understood to be the most ancient relics of ecclesiastical architecture that exist at St Andrews. The date of their erection cannot be correctly ascertained ; but the most ancient of our Scottish historians speak of them as existing in their times, and, indeed, as having already existed for several centuries at the period when they wrote. Some contend that they were erected as early as the close of the fourth century of the Christian era, by the Pictish king in whose territories they were situated, at the suggestion of St Regulus, by whom he had been converted to the belief of Christianity. And their appearance seems fully to warrant the conclusion, that they must have been erected prior to the introduction of the Saxon or Gothic architecture. The tower, whose sides form a square of about 20 feet each, and which is 108 in elevation, appears to have formed the centre of the erection. Its appendages were two wings, one to the east and the other to the west, the corresponding sides of the tower having at the bottom large doors or openings, by which the three divisions might, according to choice, form but one apartment. But even in this extended state, the dimensions of the church or chapel must have been but small, as its whole length would not much exceed 70 feet, while its breadth would vary from 14 to 20 feet. The walls of the apartment or chapel on the east of the tower have been put in a good state of repair ; but the west wing has long been entirely destroyed. Yet from the traces of the roof on the side of the tower, and from what is understood to have been a representation of the fabric on the seals of the ancient charters connected with the priory, many of which still exist, the existence of the west wing at some former period seems to be incontrovertibly established. The chapel and

tower, which remain, are in good preservation, and, with a little attention, may be kept in that state for many centuries to come. The tower was covered, about fifty years ago, with a flat leaden roof, and a small staircase of stone was then also constructed within it, so that there is now access to the summit, from which there is an extensive and beautiful prospect when the weather is favourable.

The *Cathedral*, which was by far the most extensive of the religious erections at St Andrews, is situated in the vicinity of St Regulus' tower. It was constructed in the form of a Latin cross,—the extreme length of the nave or principal part of the building being about 370 feet, and the breadth 72 feet, the thickness of the walls included, and the transept being in length 180 feet. The foundation of the building was laid in the year 1159, during the reign of Malcolm IV. who was present at the ceremony, but it was not finished until the reign of Robert Bruce, who was present at its consecration in 1318. About 160 years, consequently, elapsed between the dates of the two events. Fifty years after its consecration, a considerable part of the edifice was accidentally burnt, and after its reparation, the succeeding priors kept it in a proper state of repair, and some of them contributed materially both to its internal and its external decoration. At the period of the Reformation, the animosity subsisting between the Roman Catholics and the Protestants in Scotland was strong, and had led to an open warfare. The celebrated John Knox, the zealous supporter and champion of Protestantism, had for some time been resident at St Andrews, and his public ministrations in this city and in the neighbouring towns had been attended by vast multitudes, who adhered to his views; and having expressed in his discourses the notion, that the destruction of the religious edifices might be one of the most effectual means of eradicating Popery, the heated multitude eagerly imbibed the idea, and proceeded without delay to put it into execution. The religious edifices in St Andrews were accordingly assailed, and in a very few hours, what had been the labour of ages, was involved in ruin. When the cathedral was entire, it had six spires or turrets,—two at each of the extremities of the nave, one at the southern extremity of the transept, and one in the centre at the intersection of the nave and transept. The two turrets at the eastern extremity and one of the two at the western extremity still subsist, and rise to an elevation of about 100 feet; the other three have long been destroyed,—a small part of the pillars, on which the



central turret was erected, now alone remaining. But a small portion of the exterior wall of this once magnificent fabric is now in existence. The area within continued to be covered with a mass of rubbish until within these few years, when the Honourable the Barons of his Majesty's Exchequer directed it to be removed, and certain repairs to be executed, to promote the preservation of the ruins. The plan of the interior may now in consequence be traced with considerable accuracy. Several flat tombstones with devices and inscriptions have been exposed, and what apparently must have been a well, about forty feet deep, though now without water. Nothing, however, of any material value was disclosed by the operation.

In the vicinity of the cathedral, were the various buildings connected with the *Priory or Augustine Monastery*, which was founded during the reign of Alexander I., near the commencement of the twelfth century, by Robert, Bishop of St Andrews, and which ultimately accommodated no less than thirty-four conventual brethren, besides the necessary domestics. Martine states, that, at the period when his *Reliquiæ* were composed, or about 150 years ago, some of these buildings were still entire; and that of others considerable remains still existed. In the interval, however, which has elapsed since that period, a great change has taken place. Most of them have now entirely disappeared, the materials of which they were composed having been removed, and applied to various purposes. And as nearly the whole of the areas has been converted into garden ground, even the site of several of them can now scarcely be ascertained. The original erections connected with this establishment appear to have been comparatively of a very limited description; and as its wealth and its resources increased, the extent of its buildings was enlarged. At the commencement of the fifteenth century, they were so arranged as to form two courts, and James Bisset, the prior at that period, is represented as having paved both. In the days of Martine, so far as a judgment may be formed from his description, the plan of the buildings must have been very irregular. According to Boethius, this monastery was excelled by none in Europe, either in respect to the extent of its accommodations, or to the beauty of its architecture. A considerable portion of what is denominated the abbey wall, which surrounded and enclosed the whole, is still in existence; it appears to have been nearly half a mile in extent, about 4 feet in thickness, and 20 feet in height. It had originally sixteen towers

or turrets, interspersed at irregular distances, projecting outward several feet, and rising a few feet higher than the general level of the wall. It was erected by John Hepburn, the prior, soon after the commencement of the sixteenth century. There were three gates by which the enclosure might be entered, which, from their remains, appear to have been handsome; that, in particular, which is at the eastern extremity of the South Street of the city.

The *burying-ground* for the city and parish was originally in the immediate vicinity of the parish church, but as the space allotted for the purpose was confined, and in the heart of the city, it was with great propriety, soon after the Reformation, transferred to the vicinity of the cathedral, where it still continues. Many of the monuments which are to be found in this cemetery possess considerable interest; but none of them are of a date so old as the era of the Reformation.

The *Castle* of St Andrews is situated about 250 yards to the north-west of the cathedral, on an eminence immediately overhanging the sea. It was first erected about the beginning of the thirteenth century, by the bishop of that period, as a place of residence for himself and his successors in office. After standing nearly a century and a half, it fell into the hands of the English, and was subsequently besieged, taken, and demolished by the Scottish forces. It lay in ruins for half a century, during which period the bishop resided within the monastery, and it was rebuilt by Bishop Trail near the close of the fourteenth century. It is affirmed that James III., King of Scotland, was born in it in 1460. After the murder of Cardinal Beaton, and the subsequent siege, it was dismantled to a considerable extent; but the injury was in a great measure repaired, a few years afterwards, by Archbishop Hamilton, and it was occasionally occupied by succeeding archbishops until the period of the civil wars, when it became uninhabitable; and the priory having been annexed to the archbishoprick in 1633, the prelates who held the see after the Restoration, resided within the monastery in the building denominated the New Inns. The castle, when entire, formed a quadrangle, with a court in the interior of considerable dimensions. But, with the exception of a part of the south wall, including a handsome square tower, and a few other fragments, it is entirely in ruins. The sea, within these few years, has made considerable encroachments on the east wing; and the northern division will probably ere long share the same fate.

In addition to the monastery of the Augustines, which was rich-



ly endowed, there were at St Andrews two convents for friars of the mendicant orders. The one of these belonged to the *Gray Friars*, denominated also Franciscans or Minorites, and was situated immediately without the west port of the North Street of the city. It was founded by Bishop Kennedy about the middle of the fifteenth century, and it became the noviciate of the order in Scotland : it was demolished at the Reformation ; and the ruins and grounds connected with them were conveyed by a charter from Queen Mary to the provost and magistrates of the city for the benefit of the community, and are still in their possession. A handsome street or row, consisting of houses of considerable magnitude, and erected according to a regular plan, has been projected by the magistrates and council, to occupy the grounds of this monastery. Several of the houses have already been erected, and several more are to be erected next season. This street, when finished, will tend materially to the embellishment of the city, and it will form a very convenient line of communication between the North and Market Streets. It has been proposed that this street should be continued in a southerly direction, so as to meet the south or principal street of the city ; and although the arrangements for this purpose have not yet been effected, it is highly probable that, in a few years, this part of the plan will also be put into execution. It has been named Bell Street, in memory of the founder of the Madras College ; and if it be continued southward, that beautiful erection will form its southern termination. The other convent, which was situated on the south side of the South Street, belonged to the *Black or Predicant Friars*, denominated also Dominicans. It was founded by Bishop Wishart in 1274. It was demolished at the Reformation, with the exception of the chapel, the dimensions of which are very limited, but the architecture is in a rich Gothic style. A part of the arched stone roof has given way ; but Dr Bell, in his trust-deed relative to the Madras College, within whose grounds it is now situated, has made provision for its being kept in a proper state of repair.

The *Kirkheuch* or Kirkhill, was a collegiate church, having attached to it a provost and ten prebendaries. It appears to have belonged originally to the Culdees, who at an early period were held in so high estimation, that Constantine III., after resigning his crown, became abbot of the order. Its first site appears to have been a rock, a little beyond the entrance of the present harbour ; but the encroachments of the sea having rendered it neces-

sary to abandon this position, it was removed to the elevated ground west from the harbour, where a small fragment of its ruins may still be traced. Fordun states, that it was erected by Constantine II. soon after the middle of the ninth century; but others contend that it was founded by the Macduffs, Earls of Fife. It was suppressed at the Reformation, and its revenues were appropriated to various purposes.

At the general assumption of the rents of the church benefices in Scotland in 1561, for the purpose of establishing a fund for the support of the ministry and of the Queen's household, the following statement of the benefices of St Andrews was drawn up and presented to the proper functionaries; the modern value is annexed:

1. The rental of the Archbishoprick.

Wheat, 30 chalders 9 bolls,	= 1967 Imperial bushels.
Bear, 41 do 10 do	= 3909 do
Oats, 67 do do	= 6292 do
Money, L.2904, 7s. 2d. Scots,	= L.242, 0s. 7d. Sterling

2. The rental of the Priory.

Wheat, 38 chalders 1 boll,	= 4900 Imperial bushels.
Bear, 132 do 7 do	= 12437 do
Oats, 151 do 10 do	= 14239 do
Beans, 3 do 7 do	= 221 do
Meal, 114 do 3 do	= 2283 cwt. 84 lbs.
Money, L.2237, 18s. 1d. Scots	= L.186, 10s. Sterling.

3. The rental of the Provostry of Kirkheuch.

Bear, 3 chalders 9 bolls,	= 334 Imperial bushels.
Oats, 1 do 6 do	= 129 do
Meal, 9 do 11 do	= 193 cwt. 84 lbs.
Money, L.176, 14s. 8d. Scots,	= L.14, 14s. 6d. Sterling.

4. The Archdeanery of St Andrews, let in tack for L. 600.

5. Of the vicarage of St Andrews no rental of that date has been discovered; but in the year 1656, the minister of the recently erected parish of Cameron, to whom the vicarage of St Andrews had been assigned by act of Parliament as a stipend, raised an action in the Commissary Court against the whole of the landed proprietors of the original parish of St Andrews, for the purpose of ascertaining the amount of the vicarage teind. He obtained in consequence a sentence in his favour, and the following statement exhibits the amount of the several articles comprehended in the decree, with the value affixed to each in Scottish money, viz.

	Scotch money.	Total amount.
498 lambs, . . . each	L.1 10 0	L.747 0 0
131 stones of wool, . . .	8 0 0	1048 0 0
56 calves, . . .	2 13 4	149 6 8
90 stones of cheese, . . .	2 13 4	240 0 0
86 stones of butter, . . .	5 6 8	458 13 4
48½ fowls, . . .	6 13 4	323 6 8



	Scotch money.	Total amount.
264 Gryces,	L.0 13 4	L.176 0 0
321 Gaislings,	0 13 4	214 0 0
89½ stones of lint,	5 0 0	447 10 0
82½ stones of hemp,	3 0 0	247 10 0
		<hr/>
		L.4061 6 8

The vicarage teind was afterwards subjected to a process of valuation, and instead of the large sum above-specified, amounting to L. 337, 12s. 2d. Sterling, it was fixed at L. 20, 14s. 5d. Sterling, only, which the minister of Cameron continues to receive.

The *Trinity or Parochial Church* of the city was originally erected by Bishop Turgot, about the beginning of the twelfth century. Prior to the Reformation, it had a large establishment of chaplains and chorists, who officiated in the several chapels which were within its precincts. From a charter dated 1475, it appears that they then amounted to thirty of the former denomination and fifteen of the latter. They were supported, partly at least, by small annual payments due to them from the different tenements within the city. At the Reformation they were suppressed, and their revenues were transferred by a gift from Queen Mary to the common funds of the city. This church became the Archbishop's cathedral after the Reformation, the large cathedral being then demolished. It was thoroughly repaired in 1798, the expense being defrayed by the city, the heritors of the parish, and the Crown, in place of the Archbishop. It now consists of a nave 136 feet long by 57 broad, and an aisle 44½ feet by 28½ within the walls. It is seated so as to accommodate 2200 hearers. In the aisle, is a fine monument, erected to the memory of Archbishop Sharp, a few years after his murder. The ancient tower and spire of the church still remain, but a fine old bell, which had hung in it for centuries, and whose inscription bore that it had been cast by order of David Learmouth, Provost of the city, in honour of the Holy Trinity, in the year 1108, was inconsiderately removed, to make way for others of a more modern date.

Some centuries ago, the city was fortified; and more than once the citizens were subjected to the hardships and privations of a siege. Scarcely a vestige, however, of the city walls now remain, the port or gate excepted at the western extremity of the South Street, which has a handsome appearance, and is kept in a good state of repair. The city arms, indeed, above the centre of the arch, are nearly effaced, in consequence of the wasting of the stone by the weather, and would require to be renewed.

The *Town-House* is very inconveniently situated in the centre

of the Market Street, in the vicinity of the spot where the cross formerly stood. A few years ago, having fallen into disrepair, a convenient piece of ground was purchased for the purpose of a new erection; but as the city funds were deemed to be inadequate for the undertaking, the old fabric was repaired and enlarged, and it is now sufficiently commodious for the purposes for which it is required.

*Modern Buildings.*—Handsome *Chapels*, for the use of the Episcopalians, and for those who are connected with the United Associate Synod, have been erected within these few years. The flour mills belonging to the Incorporation of Bakers have been lately rebuilt at considerable expense. A spinning-mill has been in operation since 1823, its machinery being moved by steam. Thirty years ago, there was a manufactory of sail-cloth of a superior quality, but it was afterwards abandoned, and has not been revived.

### III.—POPULATION.

No enumeration of the population of the parish has been discovered of an older date than that of Dr Webster in 1755, when the amount was 4590

in 1793, it amounted to	3950
1801, . . . . .	4203
1811, . . . . .	4311
1821, . . . . .	4899
1831, . . . . .	5621

Of the last of these dates, 2520 were males, and 3101 females. The feuing of a considerable portion of ground at the village of Strathkinness, for the purposes of erecting houses, has contributed materially to the increase of population in the country district of the parish. The city has also considerably enlarged its boundaries, by modern erections at its south-east and north-west extremities, and by the filling up of a number of blanks in the streets and lanes. The number of families who resort to St Andrews for the purpose of education, or as a place where they may enjoy agreeable society and the necessities of life at a moderate expense, has also materially increased.

The population in the city in 1831 was	-	-	-	3767
villages, - - - - -	-	-	-	819
country, - - - - -	-	-	-	1035
The yearly average of births for the last seven years, -	-	-	-	88½
deaths, - - - - -	-	-	-	87½
marriages, - - - - -	-	-	-	47½
In 1836, there were individuals in the parish, - - -	-	-	-	5725
Of these there were under seven years of age, - - -	-	-	-	927
twelve years of age, - - -	-	-	-	1558

Illegitimate births in the course of the last three years, 28.

No individual of noble rank resides within the parish. There are about 40 families resident in the city, whose income arises from their private resources, and not from any official or professional



employment; and in the country there are 8 families of independent fortune. The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards is from 35 to 40.

The number of families in the parish is	-	-	-	1296
inhabited houses,	-	-	-	863
uninhabited or building, do.	-	-	-	14

There seems to be no peculiarity in the strength, size, complexion, or other personal qualities of the inhabitants, to distinguish them from their neighbours. The number of insane and fatuous persons is 13, of blind 5, of deaf and dumb 4.

The language which is generally employed by the labouring classes, is the Fifean dialect. Among the higher classes, the English language is spoken. There is no popular custom that can be said to be peculiar to the district; but there is a game of skill, which has for centuries formed a favourite amusement at St Andrews, viz. the *game of golf*. For the prosecution of this amusement, a considerable range of ground is requisite, with a short herbage. Both these requisites, the links or downs to the north-west of the city supply. And the inequalities of surface which the course presents, instead of being regarded as disadvantageous, tends materially to increase the interest of the game, and to promote the developement of the skill of the several competitors. The course for this game is divided into a number of stages from 200 to 500 yards distant from each other. At the termination of each, a hole, about five inches in diameter and several inches deep, is formed, and the object of the competitors is to drive the ball they employ from station to station, landing it ultimately in the holes, with the fewest number of strokes. For this purpose, clubs of a variety of shapes are employed, according to the nature of the position in which the ball may be found after the several strokes. Nearly eighty years ago, a number of gentlemen in St Andrews and its vicinity formed themselves into an association for the purpose of promoting the cultivation of this very interesting and healthy amusement. This club has now a muster roll of from 300 to 400 members. King William IV., who, before his accession to the Crown, was Duke of St Andrews, has signified his acceptance of the office of patron of the club, and has lately sent a splendid gold medal, to be competed for annually, and to be held for the year by the winner.

The majority of the people appear, on the whole, to enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society. But there are many individuals and families who have both the ability and the inclination to exert themselves, but who, in consequence

of existing circumstances, cannot obtain an adequate remuneration for their labour. Many females who formerly had their dependence on the produce of the spinning-wheel, have, in consequence of the very extensive introduction of spinning machinery, and the low rate of wages for spinning, been thrown in a great measure idle. The very reduced remuneration, also, which, for a number of years, the manufacturers received for the produce of their labours, has reduced many of them who have families to a state bordering upon destitution. In such circumstances, it can scarcely be regarded as matter of surprise, that many are far from being content with their situation, and that they are anxious for changes by which their condition may be improved.

The bulk of the parishioners are characterized by their regard for the interests of morality, and by their attachment to the cause of religion. And if there are individuals of an opposite character, their number does not seem to exceed the average of individuals of a corresponding description in other districts of the country.

Poaching in game is practised to a limited extent. Smuggling was formerly carried on on an extensive scale; but for many years past, the severity of the laws against this species of traffic, and the strictness of the precautions which are employed to guard against its prevalence, have almost completely put an end to the demoralizing practice. Pawnbroking is unknown in this district of the country.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of standard imperial acres in the parish, which are either cultivated or are occasionally in tillage, is about 9844. The number of acres which have never been cultivated, and which are waste, or in pasture, is about 544. The number of acres, that, with a profitable application of capital, might be added to the cultivated land, is very considerable,—the high prices which were obtained for grain from 1804 to 1814, having induced the cultivator to bring into tillage almost every acre that was fit for the plough. The lands that were at one period in a state of commonalty, were all divided, many years ago, among the conterminous proprietors, according to the extent of their several claims. The number of acres under wood, all of which have been planted, is 345. The plantations seem in general to be under judicious management.

*Rent.*—The average rent of arable land in the parish is L. 1, 17s. 6d. per imperial acre. No grazing of sheep or cattle *per capita* prevails in this district.



*Rate of Wages.*—Farm-labourers when hired by the year receive from L. 10 to L. 12 Sterling, with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, each 140 imperial pounds in weight, and 1s. weekly for milk. The foreman, as he is denominated, who has a species of authority over the other farm-servants, and who is in some measure responsible for the proper execution of the farming operations, receives from L. 2 to L. 10 more than the others. Female servants hired by the year receive from L. 5 to L. 7. Labourers engaged by the day, receive in summer from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d., and in winter, from 1s. 2d. to 1s. 4d. daily, the labourers furnishing their own victuals. Married farm-servants are, in many instances, allowed the use of a cow, and when this is the case, they receive only about L. 7 of wages. They have in addition to their meal, however, an allowance of ground on the farm, sufficient for sowing a peck of lintseed, and for planting from 1 cwt. to 2 cwt. of potatoes. The blacksmith in general charges the farmer for each article furnished by him, but a practice has been lately introduced, of allowing him at the rate of L. 2 Sterling annually, for each pair of horses employed on the farm. For this allowance, he furnishes shoes for the horses, and keeps the various agricultural implements in a proper state of repair.

*Live-Stock.*—In former times, a breed of cattle was very generally reared in the county, denominated the Fife breed. This is still to be found in the district, and some of the agriculturists are of opinion, that it is better adapted to the soil and climate than any other variety of the species. A number of other varieties, however, have been introduced, so that the breed of cattle now to be found in the district is of a mongrel description. But few sheep were for many years reared or pastured in the parish; of late, they have become more abundant, and are either of the Highland or Cheviot breeds. The character of the husbandry of the district is good, and does not appear to be susceptible of many alterations, that would prove useful and profitable.

About 55 acres of ground contiguous to the estuary of the Eden, which formed a part of that estuary, or were apt to be overflowed at stream tides, have at two different periods been secured by expensive embankments, and the acquisitions are now in a state of productive tillage. A plan was, at one period, under consideration, of securing a much larger extent of the estuary, but the proprietors interested in the undertaking were doubtful whether the new acquisition would have remunerated them for the expense

that would have been incurred, and the scheme was in consequence abandoned. The agriculturists in the district seem to be fully aware of the advantages attendant on draining, and considerable sums have been expended by them for securing its object, wherever it was required. Irrigation has never been practised in the district.

*Leases, &c.*—Nineteen years is the usual term of endurance of leases. This is regarded as a proper period both for the landlord and tenant. The lands, however, which are in the vicinity of the city, and which are let in small allotments chiefly to the citizens, have generally a shorter term of lease, varying from nine to thirteen years. The farm-buildings in general correspond with the size of the farms, and are kept in a proper state of repair. Almost the whole of the parish is better adapted for tillage than for pasture, and a large proportion of it is in consequence unenclosed. And even where fences have been erected, they are in many cases of a slight and a defective quality. No remarkable improvements in agriculture have lately been introduced into the district, either by the agriculturists at large, or by any particular individual, and no obstacles to improvement seem at present to exist.

*Quarries and Mines.*—Quarries of excellent free or sandstone, well adapted for building operations, are wrought at Nydie Hill, and at Strathkinness, near the western extremity of the parish. The stones of most of the buildings in St Andrews and its vicinity have been supplied from this source; and the materials which they furnish are held in so high estimation, that they are conveyed to considerable distances, sometimes even beyond the limits of the county. From Nydie Hill quarry, blocks of a very large size may be readily obtained. Quarries of whinstone have also been opened in different places, chiefly for the purpose of procuring materials for the public roads, and the streets of the city. No mines are at present wrought, but it is understood that coal, though of an inferior quality, might be procured at Denhead, near the south-west extremity of the parish.

*Fisheries.*—A salmon-fishery has long been established in the Eden, as far as the tide extends, but the produce is inconsiderable both in extent and value. The town-council of the city have, for a number of years, disposed of their right to take salmon on the east and west sands, and stake-nets have in consequence been erected; but their success has failed to realize the expectations of the tacksmen, and their erections are liable to be demolished by



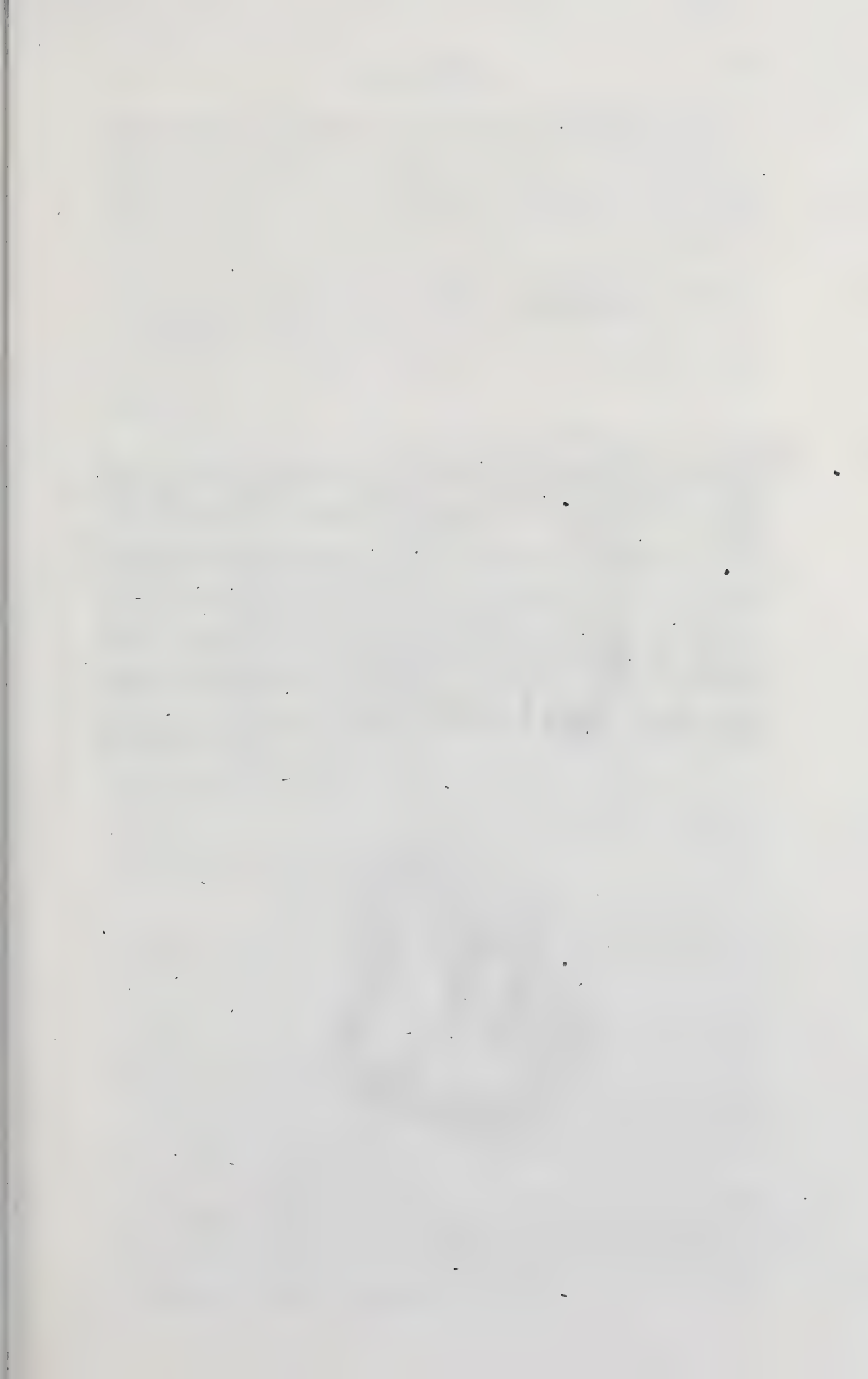
the heavy seas, brought into the bay, by an easterly or north-easterly gale. The rent yielded is about L. 7 Sterling. A number of families in the city gain their livelihood from the open sea fishery. They have several fishing boats, by which they provide for the home market during ten months of the year; and during the other two months, the bulk of them are usually employed at the herring fishery on the coast of Caithness. The produce of their labour, while they are at home, is not entirely consumed within the city, but a part of it is regularly transmitted to Cupar, the county town, and a part of it is appropriated to the supply of the vicinity. The principal varieties of fish which they produce in the market, are the haddock, cod, ling, skate, halibut, and flounder. When the wind blows fresh from the east or north-east, there is in general so heavy a surf along the coast, that the boats cannot venture beyond the limits of the harbour. Hence the citizens are frequently, for many days together, without any supplies from their own fishermen, and have then to rely on supplies from the fishing stations on the south coast of the county. During the stormy season, the fishing apparatus which is left in the sea, is exposed to injury, nay even, in many cases, to utter destruction, and the vicissitudes of the weather are then so sudden that the fishermen themselves are often unexpectedly exposed to the greatest danger.

*Produce.*—The average amount and value of *raw produce* raised yearly in the parish is nearly as follows:

28,000 bolls of grain of all kinds,	-	-	L. 31,500	0	0
78,000 stones of hay at 7d. per stone,	-	-	2,187	0	0
Potatoes, turnip, &c.	-	-	8,350	0	0
Flax, &c.	-	-	1,500	0	0
Land in pasture,	-	-	2,200	0	0
Gardens and orchards,	-	-	600	0	0
Thinning and felling of timber,	-	-	100	0	0
Fisheries, L. 20, quarries, L. 68,	-	-	88	0	0
Miscellaneous produce,	-	-	100	0	0

Total yearly value, . . . L. 46,625 0 0

*Manufactures.*—No large manufacturing establishment exists in the parish. The labour of the tradesmen is chiefly required for articles of home consumption. The weaving of linen is carried on to a considerable extent, indeed, in detached premises; but this is dependent not on the resources of manufacturers resident in the locality, but on the capital of the Kirkland establishment near Leven; or on the commercial enterprise of Dundee. The manufacture of golf balls has long been carried on here, to a considerable extent. Above 10,000 are made annually. A good workman can





*Charta. Malcolmi IV Regis.*

W. Rex Scot. Omb' suis p'p'is hoib' Sati. Scitis me concessisse hac carta confir-  
masse burgensibus epi Scti Andree omnes libertates & consuetudines  
quas mei burgenses communes habent p' totam t'ram meam quibus  
cumq; p'oribus applicuerint. Una de se uolo p'firmo super  
meu plenam p'hibeo firmitate neq; ab illis aliquid iniuste  
exigat. W. H. Waltero Cancellario. Hugone de m'euilla. Waltero  
filio Alani. Waltero de Lindesay. Robto deenel. ap' Sctm Andream



make from 50 to 60 a-week. Nearly one-half of the product is required for the use of the cultivators of the amusement in St Andrews. A market for the remainder is found in other places. Some have been sent as far as Calcutta and Madras. When trade is flourishing, the several branches afford a fair remuneration to such as are employed in them; but there have been times of depression, when even with the strictest economy, the craftsmen could scarcely secure, from the fruits of their industry, the necessities of life for themselves and their families; and when it was necessary for the more favoured classes to come forward to their assistance.

*Navigation.*—There is but one sea port in the parish, viz. that of St Andrews. The number of vessels at present connected with the port is fourteen. They are all of a small size, as the harbour does not admit vessels of a large burden. Their whole amount of tonnage does not exceed 680 tons register of old measure. The only foreign vessels which visit the harbour are from Norway or the Baltic, freighted with timber. But these, when they exceed 100 tons in burden, or draw more than 14 feet of water, are under the necessity of discharging a part of their cargo before they can attempt to enter the harbour; and even this can be done with safety, only at stream-tides. The estuary of the Eden, when the tide is nearly full, is navigable to about two miles from its entrance. And an extensive distillery being situated on its margin at this distance from the sea, vessels may frequently be seen navigating the estuary, loaded with coals and grain for its use, and conveying its produce to a distant market.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*City.*—According to Martine, Robert, Bishop of St Andrews, obtained for the city the liberties of a burgh royal, by consent of David I. about the year 1140. Malcolm IV., the grandson and successor of David, confirmed this erection, and the original charter granted by this monarch is still preserved in the city charter chest. It is in Latin, written in a neat small hand, on a slip of parchment, somewhat smaller in dimensions than a common playing card. It is expressed so briefly, that it consists only of fifty-two words, exclusive of the names and designations of five witnesses. A fac-simile of this charter is here presented.

Prior to the Reformation, the city must have been much more important and populous, than it afterwards became. But no document has been discovered, by which the amount of its inhabitants at that period can be ascertained.



The city functionaries consist of a provost, four bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer; and the town-council consists of these office-bearers, and twenty-two councillors. Before the passing of the late Burgh Reform Bill, the dean of guild ranked next to the provost, and presided at the meetings of the council in his absence; but since that period, the bailies have acquired the precedence. The latter hold courts from time to time, in which matters of litigation with citizens are determined, and in which also delinquencies are investigated, and a judgment on them pronounced. The council have under their management the revenues of the city, which amount to above L. 1300 Sterling a-year, but there is a debt affecting them, which amounts to nearly L. 5000. In addition to this they have since 1831, in consequence of a clause of Dr Bell's trust-deed, been invested with the disbursement of the interest of L. 9798, 13s. 4d. of 3 per cent. government annuities, destined for the purpose of promoting the moral and religious improvement of the community, and for such other useful and permanent works connected with the city, as might be judged most eligible; under the superintendence, however, and with the approbation of the Lord Lieutenant of the county of Fife, and the Trustees of the Madras College.

*Markets, &c.*—St Andrews is the only market-town in the parish. It has three fairs annually, besides a weekly market for the sale of grain, which is held on Monday, and a market twice a-week, viz. Wednesday and Saturday, for butter, poultry, eggs, vegetables, &c. There is a post-office in the city, which has a daily communication with Dundee and Edinburgh. The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is about twenty miles, and of the roads supported by the statute labour, six to eight miles. The bridges are kept in a good state of repair. The only one deserving of particular notice is the Guard or Gair Bridge, which affords a passage across the Eden, at the point where the roads from Dundee and Cupar to St Andrews meet. It was constructed four centuries ago, by Bishop Wardlaw, the founder of the University. It consists of six arches, and the only inconvenience attending it is its narrowness, which is such as not to admit of two carriages passing each other. There are no canals nor railroads in the parish.

*Harbour.*—The harbour is merely what is denominated a tide-harbour; it is dry at low water, with the exception of a small stream, which runs through it. There is in general a sand bar at its mouth, which prevents large vessels from finding admittance. To remedy as far as possible this inconvenience, a flood-gate has been

constructed near the centre of the harbour, for the purpose of retaining the water in the upper division, till the tide has retired, when it is opened, and the water escapes in a torrent, carrying along with it a portion of the sand which may have accumulated at the bar. But even with this auxiliary the harbour is still defective, and it does not appear to be susceptible of any material additional improvement, unless at an expense far beyond what the funds of the city can afford.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is in a central situation, being nearly at an equal distance between the two extremities of the parish. But there is a population of nearly 1000 individuals in the western division, who are situated between two and a-half and five miles from the parish church, and for whose accommodation, it would be highly desirable to have a church and a minister.\* And in the eastern division, there is a population of nearly 200, most of whom are four miles from the parish church, while they are not more than the half of that distance from the church of Kingsbarns.

The *parish church*, which was originally erected about the commencement of the twelfth century, obtained a thorough repair in 1798, and is at present in a good condition. It is seated for about 2200. There are, however, no free sittings, the whole having been divided by the Sheriff of the county, under the sanction of the Court of Session, between the city and the landed proprietors. A considerable proportion of the city's allotment was disposed of to the several corporate bodies within its limits, for the accommodation of the members of these corporations and their families. And the remainder was let every third year, by the city functionaries, to such of the inhabitants as required church accommodation, and the revenue thus obtained was added to the city funds. Several of the corporate trades have lately sold their allotments of the seating, which now belong to private individuals. The size and form of the church render it very unfavourable both for the speaker and for many of the hearers. It has been ascertained that there are nearly 500 sittings so situate, that the occupants cannot distinctly hear what is uttered in the pulpit by any ordinary speaker, and that in many of them they cannot even see the officiating minister. Hence, these pews are in general but thinly occupied, and many of them stand almost perpetually empty. A

\* A handsome preaching station, which serves also for a school-house, has lately been erected in the village of Strathkinness, which is central for this district of the parish.



plan has been suggested of secluding a number of them from the church by partitions, which would greatly improve it, with but little detriment to any individual. And it has been also suggested, that further curtailments should be made upon the church, and that, to meet the wants of the population, an additional church should be erected within the city, which might either be supplied by the ministers alternately, or by one of them officiating regularly to the new congregation. It seems to be not improbable, that this suggestion may ere long be realized, as urgent applications are frequently made for church accommodation, by persons who are anxious to obtain it, but who are in general under the necessity of waiting for a considerable period, before they can secure it in an eligible situation. And numbers, who have been unable to obtain such accommodation, have been induced to apply for it, either in the church of St Leonards or in the dissenting chapels, where it could be obtained.

No *manse* has been erected for the use of either of the ministers. It seems to be understood, however, that the first minister would be found entitled, to a manse and offices, were he to apply for them in a regular form. He already possesses a glebe, consisting of four acres, in the immediate vicinity of the city, which is let to a tenant for a rent of L. 23 a year ; and connected with it he has a small garden. *The stipend* of the first minister amounts to 22 chalders from the teinds of the parish, and he enjoys, besides, the half of the emoluments of the archdeaconry, which add to it about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  chalders. He has also an allowance of L. 20 Sterling for communion elements. The second charge was established in 1589. The incumbent has no manse nor glebe. His stipend consisted, until within these few years, of L. 72, 4s.  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. from the city funds, and the half of the archdeaconry, which amounts to about 107 bolls of grain, and L. 3 Sterling. He is also entitled to the teind of the fish caught by the fishermen within the city. But those who follow this profession are in general so much oppressed with poverty, that for the last twenty-years he has not exacted from them one farthing. It was decided by the commissioners of teinds, after an expensive litigation, that he has no claim on the teinds of the parish, so that when the late parliamentary grant (5th Geo. IV. ch. 72.) was made in favours of the small livings in Scotland, he found it advisable to make the necessary application for the benefit of that endowment, and the income of the office had an addition made to it of L. 33, 10s. 5d., to raise it to the minimum rate, including an allowance for a manse and

glebe; and L. 8, 6s. 8d. were assigned to him annually for communion elements.

No chapel of ease nor Government church exists at present in the parish, and no missionary nor catechist was employed within its precincts until 1834, when an experienced licentiate of the Church of Scotland was engaged to act as a preacher, to conduct public worship at one or other of the villages of Strathkinness, Boarhills, or Kincaple, on the Sundays, and also to act as a catechist, in the city and villages, both on Sundays and ordinary week days. His salary of L. 52, 12s. a-year, was afforded him the first year by the first minister; and since that period, the latter has contributed the half only of the salary, and certain of the heritors and parishioners the remainder.

There are four *Dissenting chapels* in the parish, three of which are in the city, and one at the village of Strathkinness, one of the former being Episcopalian. The ministers of these chapels derive their incomes from the seat rents, and from the collections which are made at their doors, when the several congregations assemble for public worship. It is understood that they vary in amount from L. 70 to L. 100 Sterling a year. Between an eighth and a ninth part of the population of the parish are dissenters from the Established Church of Scotland, and have connected themselves with these chapels. The remaining part of the population, the few excepted who have no religious profession, adhere to the Established Church. One family of Roman Catholics only resides in the parish; the father is in the preventive service, and was stationed here only about a year and a half ago. There are two other individuals of that persuasion in the parish, and the whole are natives of Ireland. Divine service, both in the parish church and in the chapels, is generally well attended. The average number of communicants at the dispensation of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper in the parish church for the last ten or twelve years is about 2030. But from an investigation which took place in 1836, it appeared that there were 2490 individuals in the parish who were in communion with the establishment, although, in consequence of age and infirmities, the great distance of many of them from the church, and the necessity of having a proper person to watch over many of the families on the communion Sabbath, nearly a fifth of the whole were absent when that service was performed. It was at the same time ascertained, that the number of the parishioners who were in communion with the various denomina-



tions of Dissenters amounted to 344, while the whole number of Dissenters was 697. Of this number 328 were in connection with the United Associate Synod, 150 with the Original Burghers, 108 with the Episcopalians, and 111 with the Independents.

A *Bible Society* and a *Missionary Society* have been established in the city for many years. The annual amount of their contributions is about L. 30, and the annual average of church collections for religious purposes is nearly to the same amount.

*Education.*—Prior to the year 1834, there were in the parish seventeen schools, but strictly speaking no parochial school existed among the number, its place being supplied by the burgh school, so that the heritors of the parish were not burdened with the payment of a schoolmaster's salary. Two of the schools in the city, viz. the English and grammar schools, had hitherto been supported in part by endowment from the common funds of the city. And two of the schools in the country districts have each a small house, garden, and salary attached to them, and one of them viz. that of Strathkinness, has, in addition to these, six acres of arable ground, which were allotted to it many years ago, on the division of a commonalty among the conterminous heritors. The others were dependent entirely on the school-fees. In some of them, the reading of English was the only branch taught, in others there were combined with it writing and arithmetic. In the grammar-school, the master confined himself to the teaching of Latin and Greek. The school fees varied considerably in the different schools. In some, they were as low as 2s. a quarter. In the burgh English school, the highest charge did not exceed L. 1 a year; and in the grammar-school it was fixed at L. 2, 2s.

*The Madras College.*—In May 1831, the Rev. Dr Andrew Bell, one of the prebendaries of Westminster, the deviser of the Madras or national system of education, and a native of St Andrews, transferred into the joint names of the provost of the city of St Andrews, the two ministers of the parish, and the Professor of Greek in the University, two several sums of L. 60,000, three per cent. reduced annuities, and L. 60,000 three per cent. consols, for purposes connected with education, to be afterwards more fully detailed. And about two months afterwards, he and the said parties as trustees, executed a declaration of trusts, relative to the appropriation of the said sums, in which it is narrated, that as the progress of the Madras System of Education had been but slow and imperfect in his native country of Scotland, he, the munifi-

cent donor, entertained the idea that the greatest boon he could confer upon it was to adopt measures for the more effectual diffusion of the said system within its limits ; and that, for promoting this object, one-twelfth share of the sums so transferred, after setting apart a specified sum to defray all expenses, should be transferred by the trustees to the provost, magistrates, and town-council of each of the five cities or towns, viz. Edinburgh, Glasgow, Leith, Aberdeen, and Inverness, on the condition that it should be held by them and their successors in office for ever, and that the annual produce thereof should be employed in founding and maintaining schools in each of the said towns, for the instruction of children in the ordinary branches of education, upon the system of mutual instruction and moral discipline exemplified in the Madras school. That a twelfth share should be transferred to the trustees of the Royal Naval School, established for the education of children of officers in the navy, on the same condition and for the same purpose. That another twelfth share should be transferred to the provost, magistrates, and town-council of St Andrews, so as to become a permanent fund for the moral and religious improvement of the city ; and for such other useful and permanent works within the city as might be judged most eligible. And that the remaining five shares should continue to be vested in the four said trustees and their successors in office, substituting, however, the Sheriff-Depute of Fife for the Professor of Greek after the death of the present incumbent, for the purpose of erecting a college on a small field previously purchased by Dr Bell within the city, with appropriate houses for masters, monitors, and servants, and with gardens, shrubbery, and play-ground, to be designated the Madras College of St Andrews. It was further provided, that the trustees should not expend more than the half of the sum which remained in their hands in the erection of the necessary buildings, and that the annual income of the remainder should be applied to the maintenance of the said college, and to the establishment of eight bursaries in the United College, to be held by such only as had previously been educated at the Madras College for the space of three years. The Lord Lieutenant of the county of Fife, the Lord Justice-Clerk of Scotland, and the Reverend the Episcopal Bishop of Edinburgh are nominated patrons and visitors of the College, and have intimated their acceptance of the nomination ; and the trustees for their own exoneration have obtained the consent of three gentlemen residing in the neighbourhood,



viz. Sir Ralph Anstruther, of Balcaskie, Baronet; David Monypenny, Esq. of Pitmillie; and David Wemyss, Esq. of Denbrae, to undertake the task of auditing their accounts.

With this new seminary, the English and grammar schools of the city are now incorporated, with the salaries attached to them; and the nomination of the masters is vested in the trustees, after a proper trial and examination of the candidates, the patrons having a veto in the nomination. The trustees are directed also to exact from the children educated in the said college, such fees only, as it shall appear to them that the parents of such children are able to pay without much inconvenience; and that those children whose parents are unable to pay any such fees shall be educated gratis. They are directed also to inspect and to examine the said college every three months, that they may ascertain the progress of the scholars; and to have a public examination of them annually.

The buildings devoted to the purposes of tuition in the Madras College are now completed. They form a quadrangle, with a court within, which is surrounded by a handsome corridor, from which the class-rooms enter. The style of the building is that which prevailed in England during the reign of Queen Elizabeth. The plan, devised by William Burn, Esq. architect, Edinburgh, is such as might have been expected from his taste and talents; and the execution of the work is highly creditable to the skill of our native artisans who were employed in the erection. Between this quadrangle and the street, there is an extensive area covered with gravel, where the pupils of the institution enjoy air and exercise; and close to the street, and as remote from each other as the extent of the ground would admit, two commodious dwelling-houses, harmonizing in their architecture with the principal building, have been erected for the use of the English and classical masters, who are thus furnished with the means of receiving each a considerable number of boarders.

When the buildings were in a sufficient state of forwardness, the trustees proceeded, with the sanction of the patrons, to model the institution, so as most effectually, in their apprehension, to meet the object of the founder and the benefit of the community, and to put the whole into operation. It now (January 1838) comprehends teachers of the following branches:—1. Of English and of English grammar, who is furnished with an assistant; 2. of Greek and Latin, who has also an assistant; 3. of arithmetic;

4. of mathematics and geography ; 5. of writing ; 6. of drawing ; 7. of the French, German, and Italian languages ; and, 8. of church music.

The pupils connected with the English department are accommodated in two large apartments, in the south division of the quadrangle. The classical teacher, with his pupils, occupies an elegant and spacious apartment in the northern division, while the teachers of arithmetic and writing occupy, respectively, the east and west divisions. In the trustees' room, there is a handsome marble bust of the founder, executed by Mr Joseph, London, which is regarded as exhibiting a very accurate likeness of the original at the period when it passed through the hands of the artist. About 150 children of the most indigent of the citizens are selected by the trustees to receive a gratuitous education. Those who can afford to pay for the education of their families have, for the ordinary branches, a selection of two rates of fees, the one being double the amount of the other,—the same masters, however, superintending the whole. The higher rate is 2s. a quarter for English reading ; 2s. 6d. for reading and writing ; and 3s. for reading, writing, arithmetic, and English grammar. The fees in the other departments, viz. to the classical teacher, to the teacher of modern languages, drawing, and mathematics, are each 7s. 6d. a quarter, while the music master has only 1s. a quarter from each of his pupils. In addition to their respective fees, the teachers of arithmetic, writing, and the modern languages have each an allowance of L. 50 a year from the funds of the college, and the music master L. 25. The English master has a salary of L. 25 annually from the funds of the city, and the classical master has L. 50 annually from the same source.

The trustees have been most fortunate in the selection of teachers for this new institution ; and the beneficial consequences that were anticipated from it have been amply realized. St Andrews has long been regarded as a most eligible place for education in all its departments ; and the erection of the Madras College has contributed materially to increase its attractiveness. The following detail exhibits a statement of the number of pupils attending the several classes in May 1836, viz.—The English classes, 629 ; writing do. 447 ; drawing do. 30 ; arithmetic do. 360 ; mathematical do. 40 ; geography do. 43 ; Latin do. 95 ; Greek do. 50 ; church music do. 80. The total number of pupils attending the institution at this date was, on a careful scrutiny, found to be 798.



Dr Bell, the munificent benefactor of his country, and of his native city in particular, did not live to see his benevolent purposes carried into full operation. He died at Cheltenham in January 1832, in the seventy-ninth year of his age, leaving the bulk of the residue of his fortune for the same valuable object, namely, the education of the young in Scotland, on the principles laid down in the printed manual, which details the particulars of his excellent system.

Two *Boarding Schools* for young ladies, where day-scholars are also admitted from the families resident in the city, have long been established at St Andrews. In these, all the usual branches of education that are required for females in the higher ranks of life may be attained. Two other schools conducted by females at present exist; and the number of pupils attending the whole of these seminaries is about 65. In addition to the Madras College, there are two schools in the city conducted by males, the number of whose scholars is 52; and in the schools established in the country districts of the parish, 220 young persons receive their education. The Sunday schools in the parish are attended by several hundreds. The people seem to be, in general, fully alive to the benefits resulting from a good education; and as schools have been long established in the different districts of the parish, all have had the means within their reach of securing it for their children. There is, in consequence, scarcely an individual in the parish above the age of ten years, who cannot read, and but few who cannot also write.

These details relative to the institutions connected with the elementary branches of education, naturally lead to a survey of the establishments with which St Andrews has been furnished for the acquisition of higher attainments in literature and science.

*The University of St Andrews.*—This university was established in 1411, by Henry Wardlaw, Bishop of St Andrews. Prior to this period, the young men in Scotland, who aimed at the attainment of a more liberal education than the seminaries of the country afforded, were under the necessity of repairing to foreign universities and colleges. And as their removal thither was frequently attended with much risk and inconvenience, the discerning part of the community were sensible of the advantages which the country would derive from the establishment of an institution within its limits, where the higher branches of education, in science, philosophy, and theology, might be attained. Wardlaw, the ecclesiastical metropolitan of the kingdom, was one of the individuals

who entertained these sentiments; and having ascertained that his Sovereign James I., at that period a prisoner in England, heartily approved of such an establishment, he determined, with the co-operation of some of the most enlightened of the ecclesiastics of his diocese, to erect an university at St Andrews. And the sanction of the Pope being at that period regarded as necessary to legalize such an establishment, he applied to Benedict XIII., who was recognized by the Scottish nation as the duly constituted head of the Church, who readily approved of the measure, and who sent him a bull, sanctioning and confirming the new erection. By this charter, the bishop of the diocese was recognized as the chancellor of the university, authority being conveyed to him to confer degrees in theology, laws, medicine, and the arts. The funds attached to the institution were at first extremely limited; but the individuals who were appointed to superintend the different departments of study, and who in general enjoyed endowments from other sources, were enthusiastic in the cause; and although they received but little remuneration for their labours, they persevered in their efforts, and attracted to their prelections multitudes of young men from the several districts of the kingdom. At the head of the institution a rector was placed, of whom, by the charter of erection, it was required, as a necessary qualification, that he should be a graduate in one of the faculties, and that he should be invested with holy orders.

*St Salvator's College.*—James Kennedy, the successor of Wardlaw in the discharge of the Episcopal functions at St Andrews, judging the scale of the original institution of the university to be too limited for the great concourse of students, prepared the way for its farther extension and improvement, by the erection of the College of St Salvator in 1455, with which he incorporated for an endowment the rectorial tithes of the parishes of Cults, Kemback, Denino, and Kilmany, the three principal masters of the college, being constituted rectors of the three first enumerated parishes; and the fruits of the last being reserved as a common fund, for the use and maintenance of all the founded persons, who were thirteen in number, together with their attendants and servants. This erection was also sanctioned with the Pope's authority, who bestowed on it the privilege of conferring degrees in theology and the arts.

*St Leonard's College.*—In the year 1512, John Hepburn, Prior of the Augustinian Monastery at St Andrews, made an additional



increase to the extent of the university, by the erection of St Leonard's College, which he endowed with the revenues of the hospital at St Andrews, which had formerly been appropriated to the reception of pilgrims, who repaired to this city for the pious purpose of viewing the relics of its tutelary saint. Twenty-five persons were to be supported by this new foundation, viz. a principal, four chaplains, two of them being regents, and twenty scholars. This erection was soon afterwards confirmed by the archbishop, and by the monarch of the country, James IV.

*St Mary's College.*—At the period of the erection of St Leonard's College, the buildings which had been appropriated to the use of the university after its first establishment, and which were denominated the Pedagogy, having fallen into great disrepair, and the slenderness of the funds connected with this part of the institution having rendered it a matter of difficulty to procure the services of men properly qualified for conducting the education of the students, the archbishop, with the consent and concurrence of the prior and convent, formed the design of repairing or of rebuilding them, and of erecting them into a college with a suitable endowment; but for reasons which have not been ascertained, the intention was not then carried into execution. In 1537, however, James Beaton, the archbishop, resolved to prosecute the plan which had been devised by his predecessor in office, and obtained the sanction of the Pope for the erection of a college on the site of the pedagogy, to be denominated St Mary's College. He was proceeding in the execution of the work, when its farther progress was arrested by his death. Cardinal Beaton, his successor in office, continued the work, which, however, was far from being complete at the period of his murder. Archbishop Hamilton, who succeeded him, greatly enlarged the plan of the new erection, and completed the work. He assumed to himself also the title of founder of the college, to which, however, he continued the designation which had been assigned to it by his predecessors. He intended it to be on a much larger scale than either of the other two colleges connected with the University, and that there should be maintained within its precincts a principal, eight professors, and twenty-four bursars in theology and philosophy, besides menial attendants. And for the maintenance of the establishment, he appropriated the tithes of the parishes of Tannadice, Tynningham, Laurencekirk, Pert, Tarvet, and Craig. This erection was also

sanctioned by the Pope, who conferred on it the privilege of conferring degrees in the several faculties.

From the monarchs of the country, the University and its colleges experienced all due encouragement. They confirmed their several charters of erection, and they exempted the individuals connected with them, whether masters or students, together with their revenues, from all services and taxations, which might affect the other subjects who were resident within the kingdom.

Soon after the Reformation, it was deemed to be expedient, that the University and its colleges should be modelled anew, so as that they might be accommodated to the change which had taken place in the religious establishment of the country; and by an enactment of the Legislature in 1579, what is usually known by the name of *Buchanan's Reformation*, because the celebrated George Buchanan was one of the commissioners employed in drawing up the plan of the new arrangements, was carried into effect. By the provisions of this act, the colleges of St Salvator and St Leonard were to be restricted to the teaching of philosophy, and St Mary's was to be a seminary for theology only. In process of time, however, it was found, that the alterations which had thus been effected, had given rise to uncertainty on the part of the professors, relative to the sciences which they were required to teach, and to a consequent negligence in the discharge of their professional duties. To remedy this evil, a fresh enactment of the Legislature in 1621, ratified the first foundations of the three colleges in all their heads, articles, and clauses, so far as was consistent with the state of the reformed religious establishment, and ordained the different members of the colleges to conform themselves to the regulations therein specified, with the exception only, that the masters of St Mary's College should confine themselves to the teaching of divinity, as directed by the former Act of Parliament.

The three colleges, thus restored to their original foundations, continued to subsist until the year 1747, when, in consequence of the inadequacy of the provision for the principals and professors of the two philosophy colleges, an union of them, which had for some time been contemplated, was carried into effect by an act of the British Parliament ratifying the measure, and embracing a detail of the regulations by which the future arrangements of the United College of St Salvator and St Leonard's were to be conducted. By this statute, the number of the endowments was con-



siderably curtailed. Instead of two principals and ten professors which formed the previous establishment of the two colleges, the United College was to have but one principal and eight professors.

No change in the constitution of the colleges has taken place since that period, and the United College has now a principal, who superintends the whole establishment, but who has hitherto been required to take no active share in conducting any of the particular departments of literature or science; and Professors of Greek, Humanity or Latin, of Logic and Rhetoric, of Moral Philosophy, of Natural Philosophy, of Civil History, and of Medicine; the Professor of Moral Philosophy having also a class for political economy, and the Professor of Medicine a class for chemistry and chemical pharmacy. A few years ago, the college resolved to allow a salary of L. 26, 5s. annually from their revenue to a lecturer on natural history. A gentleman well qualified for the undertaking was selected for the office, and for several seasons fulfilled its duties with much credit to himself, and advantage to his pupils. But it was found, in the issue, that the number of students who were disposed to avail themselves of this new institution, was too limited to afford an adequate remuneration, and the labours of the lecturer were in consequence discontinued. In St Mary's College, there is a principal, who is also Primarius Professor of Theology, and who is actively employed in conducting the department of systematic theology, a Professor of Divinity, who confines himself chiefly to biblical criticism, and Professors of Ecclesiastical History, and the Oriental Languages.

The *Senatus Academicus* of the University is composed of the principals and professors of the colleges, and the rector of the University presides at its meetings. By it alone, degrees are conferred, the other faculties only exercising the privilege of recommending to its notice such individuals as they may deem qualified for receiving the distinction. This aggregate body superintends the arrangements connected with the University library; it nominates the Chancellor of the University when a vacancy occurs, and it possesses and exercises the right of electing the Professor of Medicine, the librarian and the archbeadle. An appeal to it is competent in certain cases, it is understood, from a judgment pronounced by either of the colleges.

The *Rector* of the university is elected annually on the first Monday of March, at a meeting of the comitia of the whole uni-

versity, comprehending the principals, professors, and students, by four delegates of their number denominated intrants, who represent the four nations or bodies, viz. the Fifani, Albani, Lothiani, and Angusiani, into which the members of the comitia are arranged, and who are supposed to form their decision in conformity to the general sentiment entertained by their constituents. By the existing regulations, the only individuals who are eligible to the office of rector are the principals of the two colleges, and the professors of divinity and ecclesiastical history.

From time to time, *royal visitations* of the university and its colleges, were found requisite to correct abuses, where they had been introduced, to see that the rules of the several institutions were properly observed, and to establish such alterations in the regulations as might be deemed necessary for the advancement of literature, and for the welfare of the several corporations. This practice having been discontinued for more than a century, his Majesty George IV. in 1826, issued a commission to certain noblemen and gentlemen to visit the several universities in Scotland, to take a particular account of the existing state of these institutions, to report their proceedings to his Majesty, and to suggest such rules, ordinances, and improvements, as they might judge to be expedient for their future regulation and prosperity. This arduous task, the commissioners ably and faithfully performed; and their report, which is voluminous and interesting, was presented to his Majesty several years ago. But although several attempts have been made to found upon it a legislative enactment, such a measure has hitherto been found to be attended with difficulties of no ordinary magnitude, and none of the suggestions of the commissioners have yet received the necessary sanction for establishing their introduction and enforcement.

The endowments of the colleges having been greatly curtailed within the last half century, by the augmentations of the stipends of those parishes, of the tithes of which they were titulars, their revenues, after affording an inadequate salary to the several incumbents, and other necessary disbursements, were found to be totally inadequate for the purpose of preserving the *college buildings* in a proper state of repair. They were in consequence, a few years ago, in a very dilapidated state, and a considerable part of them must have been allowed to fall into ruin. In consequence, however, of the intervention of Lord Melville, the Chancellor of the University, strengthened by the concurrence of the royal com-



missioners, the Lords of the Treasury were directed by his late Majesty, George IV., to issue an order for the appropriation of the sum that might be deemed requisite, for re-establishing such of the buildings as were capable of being repaired, and of rebuilding such as were hastening towards irremediable decay. St Mary's College has in consequence been repaired agreeably to a design by Mr Reid, the King's Architect in Edinburgh, and has now an appropriate academical appearance. An elegant plan was also formed by the same gentleman, for the erection of a new set of buildings for the United College. A considerable part of the work was in consequence executed, and its continuance and completion, it was expected, would ere long have been carried into execution; but the farther progress of the undertaking has been delayed, and farther advances from the Treasury have, it is understood, been refused, on the ground, that the sum set apart for the re-establishment of the University buildings, has already been expended. It may be proper to add, that the *University Library*, whose apartments were completely filled with a store of books, amounting to upwards of 30,000 volumes, was at the same time greatly enlarged. The front of the old part of this building toward the street, was then renewed, or retouched, so as to harmonize with the new part of the erection, and it exhibits a line of handsome shields, extending from the one extremity to the other, on which are emblazoned the arms of the several Chancellors of the University, from its first erection down to the present times.

*The elegant Gothic Chapel and Tower of St Salvator's College*, erected by Bishop Kennedy, still remain, though somewhat mutilated and altered, both internally and externally. The fine arched roof of the former was removed, considerably more than half a century ago, on an apprehension of insecurity, for which there appears to have been but little foundation. Its rich antique windows have been supplanted by others of a far less appropriate aspect, and the beautiful monument of its founder, with which the chapel was adorned, was seriously injured by the carelessness and unskilfulness of the workmen, who were employed in carrying these alterations into execution. About the same period, the parish church of St Leonard's having fallen into disrepair, the congregation removed to this chapel, which was properly fitted up for their accommodation, and it still continues to be employed for this purpose.

There are many other interesting particulars relative to the University and its colleges, which might have been detailed, but

which the limits prescribed to this article render it necessary for the writer to omit.

*Literature.*—A parochial library was established in St Andrews a few years ago. The publications which have been introduced into it, are almost exclusively of a religious character. The number of the volumes now amounts to 260 ; and one shilling a-year only is exacted from those who avail themselves of the advantages which it affords. About fifteen years ago, a number of the gentlemen residing in the city and neighbourhood entered into an association for the purpose of establishing a library which might embrace the most popular productions connected with general literature. They have now a library of considerable value, comprehending nearly 1200 volumes, and which is annually on the increase. The books are given out to subscribers only, who pay an annual subscription of 8s., and who are at present about 100 in number. A Mechanics Library was established some years ago, and it seemed at first to meet with considerable encouragement, but of late it has not prospered. No school of arts, nor any scientific, literary, or antiquarian society, has been established within the parish, the society being too limited for affording the necessary support, for any considerable length of time, to such institutions.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—A few years ago, several friendly societies existed in the city, but they have one by one been abandoned. They appeared, while they were in operation, to be highly beneficial in their tendency, and to be conducive to the formation of industrious habits. They were evidently founded, however, on erroneous calculations, and held out much more flattering promises of advantage to the contributors than they were able to realize. It is to be apprehended also, that where they engaged to afford a weekly allowance to a contributor when he was in distress, and when he was unable to attend to his ordinary duties, there were individuals who occasionally counterfeited sickness, or who continued much longer on the sick list than was just and equitable, that they might receive the stipulated allowance. The detection of a few cases of this description, combined with the necessity which existed of remodelling the whole plan of their arrangements, so as to enable the managers to fulfil their engagements, has had the tendency to render them unpopular, and to lead to their dissolution. This is much to be lamented,



as while they are calculated to cherish industrious habits, they foster also the natural desire of independence.

A *Savings Bank* was established in the city in 1816. During the first nine years, the amount of the deposits, after deducting the sums withdrawn, was annually on the increase. During the following three years, there was a considerable decrease, but since that period, the increase has again been steady, and the amount in March 1837 is about L. 1100 Sterling. The number of the depositors is at present nearly 200, and the average amount of the deposits is about L. 6. The deposits are almost exclusively made by persons belonging to the labouring classes. They are lodged in the Bank of Scotland's branch at St Andrews; and that establishment has from the commencement, with the view of encouraging the savings bank, allowed one per cent. more of interest to its deposits than to ordinary depositors, so that the rate of interest to savings bank deposits has never been below 3 per cent. The writer of this article has had the sole charge of the savings bank, for eighteen years past. He sets apart for it an hour every Monday, though in general the half of that time would be quite sufficient.

*Poor and Funds for their support under the management of the Kirk-session.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid, during the last seven years, was 103 per annum, and their allowances varied from 6d. to 2s. 6d. weekly, according to their exigencies. The funds for their support were, average collections at the church doors, L. 218, 4s. 2d.; rent and feu-duties of lands, L. 73, 16s. 7d.; interest of a debt due by the city, L. 40; collected by Saturday's box, L. 44, 4s.; rent of a legacy, L. 5; total annual average, L. 381, 4s. 9d.; total average expenditure, L. 417, 0s. 4½d.

The poor's funds have for many years been burdened with a heavy expense in supporting and confining indigent lunatics. The kirk-session has, in consequence, found it requisite to apply, though at distant periods, to the heritors, citizens, tenantry, &c. for voluntary contributions to enable them to meet this expenditure, and hitherto they have contributed liberally for this object. There is now unquestionably less delicacy among the poor relative to application for parochial relief than in former times, and there are many who account it no degradation to receive an allowance from this source. But there are also individuals who can only be compelled by the most urgent necessity to have recourse to parochial relief.

*Prisons.*—There is a prison in the city, in which the average number confined during the year is about 20, for theft, drunkenness, and riotous behaviour. It is strong and well secured. Particular attention is paid in it to the health, diet, and lodging of the prisoners. Its superintendence is vested in the magistrates, who have a jailor acting under their direction.

*Fairs.*—Three fairs are held in the city annually, on days which are still regulated by the old style of computation, viz. the second Thursday of April, the 1st day of August, and the 30th November. The first of the three was what Martine denominates, “the renowned faire of St Andrews, called the Senzie Mercat, held and kept for fifteen dayes, and beginning the second week after Easter, whereunto resorted merchants from most of the then trading kingdomes in Europe; trade in this kingdome being then in its infancie.” At that period, according to tradition, from 200 to 300 vessels might have been seen in the bay and harbour of St Andrews, conveying to it the produce of foreign countries. The fair is now confined to a single day, and the business transacted in it is to a very limited amount. The fair in August has of late been much frequented by the farm-servants of the eastern districts of the county, many of them in the market-place forming engagements with new masters. The third fair is held on St Andrew’s day old style, and is usually but thinly attended.

*Inns, &c.*—The number of inns, alehouses, &c. within the parish is 48, viz. 39 in the city, and 9 in the country districts. This is unquestionably a much greater number than the exigencies of the population require; and it were much to be wished that some effectual expedient were adopted, not here only, but throughout the country at large, for checking an evil which has so demoralizing an influence.

*Fuel.*—The fuel which is employed in the city is coal, chiefly conveyed by sea from Newcastle, or the ports in the Forth where that commodity is shipped. A part of the supply is also brought by land carriage from Largoward, which is seven miles distant, and from Drumcarro, which is still nearer. In the country districts there is a greater dependence on the home supply, though it is not confined to this alone. The present expense of sea coal is much greater than usual, being for Newcastle coal from 18s. to L. 1, 1s. a ton, according to quality, at the harbour, while the coal from the Forth varies from 15s. to 18s. Those who are in the possession of horses and carriages, find it advantageous to procure



coals directly from the pit ; but where it is requisite to pay hire and tolls, a family can be nearly as cheaply supplied by sea-borne coal.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the publication of the Statistical Account of the parish, by the late Dr Adamson, in 1794, considerable alterations and improvements have taken place. Portions of the waste and uncultivated lands have been brought into a state of tillage. The mode of farming has been also materially altered for the better ; a much greater quantity of grain being now raised, than under the former system of agriculture. But the expense attendant on farming operations, and the rent of land, have also materially increased, though for a number of years the latter has been on the decline ; so that the farmer of the present day does not derive from his skill and capital so high a remuneration as he then enjoyed. Tracts of soil, too, whose culture would not have afforded a remuneration for the expense attendant upon it, have been planted by the proprietors ; and the young plantations, while, in process of time, they will prove a source of revenue, will tend also materially to the embellishment of the country. Strathkinness, which then consisted of but a few straggling houses, now forms a village with a population little short of 500 inhabitants. Within the city, great improvements are also visible. The pavement of the streets and lanes, which was then in a very bad condition, has been everywhere amended, though there is still a great deficiency of smooth pavement at the sides. Until within these twenty years, the streets were not lighted during the winter, but this defect has since been supplied ; first, by oil, and ultimately, by gas : a joint stock company having, during the course of the season, 1835, established the manufacture of that commodity for the supply of the city. Many of the houses which were old and ruinous have been pulled down, and have been replaced by others of a more commodious and ornamental description ; and a number of the blank spaces which presented themselves in the streets and lanes have been filled up with appropriate buildings. Regarded as a bathing-station, the city has been furnished with a handsome erection in the immediate vicinity of the castle, and overhanging the sea, containing suitable accommodation for hot and cold baths, which may be obtained at a moderate expense. The sea-beach, in the vicinity of the city, is well-adapted for bathing, but it is still destitute of what many would regard as a very appropriate convenience,

for such a locality, viz., one or two bathing-machines, which it is supposed would amply remunerate the proprietor for the expense incurred by their introduction.

The *Typographical art* was cultivated at St Andrews previous to the era of the Reformation; but the works which, about that period, were printed in the city are now very rare, and are only to be found in some of the most valuable libraries. Among these, the *Complaynt of Scotland*, printed in 1548, and *Archbishop Hamilton's Catechism*, printed in 1552, have attracted considerable attention. When the city fell into a state of decay, after the destruction of the principal ecclesiastical edifices, and the alienation of the revenues, by which they were supported, the art of printing appears to have been discontinued. An attempt to revive it within the precincts of the University was made in 1796 by Mr Morison of Perth, who was appointed to the office of university printer, when, with several other productions, accurate editions of certain of the Latin classics were printed, under the superintendence of Dr John Hunter, then Professor of Humanity. But although the editor was a gentleman of distinguished talents and celebrity, it was found that the expense of the establishment more than counterbalanced the profit, and Mr Morison was induced to resign the appointment, and to withdraw his press.

A branch of the *Bank of Scotland* was established in the city nearly half a century ago, and has been continued to the present day without any rival; the limited extent of the commercial arrangements of the city and its vicinity requiring no additional supply.

*December 1837, revised February 1838.*

## PARISH OF ST LEONARDS.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. J. HUNTER, LL. D. MINISTER.\*

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THIS parish derives its name from one of the Saints of the Roman Calendar, who, in the earlier part of his life, was one of the noblemen who frequented the Court of Clovis I. King

\* Drawn up by the Rev. Dr George Buist, one of the Ministers of St Andrews.



of the Franks, who afterwards retired from that court to a forest in the Limousin, where he constructed an oratory, and acquired high celebrity as a preacher. His fame is said to have been greatly increased by the miraculous endowments he exhibited, and by the sanctity of his life. After his death he was canonized, and many religious edifices were dedicated to him, not in France only but also in Britain. He died soon after the middle of the sixth century of the Christian era.

It is uncertain at what period the territory which at present constitutes the parish of St Leonards was originally erected into a parish. From the erection of St Leonard's College in 1512, its parochial status can be distinctly traced, but prior to that period, it is not so decidedly fixed. There are circumstances which seem to render it probable that it is not of a more ancient date. When, according to tradition, the Greek monk Regulus and his associates who had sailed from Greece, carrying along with them certain of the bones or relics of the apostle Andrew, were wrecked at the spot where the city of St Andrews now stands, they were successful in prevailing upon the monarch of the country and the bulk of his subjects, to abandon their idolatrous notions and practices, and to embrace Christianity. The precious relics, which had been preserved at the period of the shipwreck, were carefully kept, and in the superstitious times which followed, multitudes flocked, not only from the various districts of the kingdom, but also from foreign lands, to inspect and admire them, and to experience the influence of their supposed miraculous powers. The multitude of these devotees was, at certain periods, so great, that they could not be conveniently accommodated, in the buildings which had been erected for the use of the existing religious institutions of the place, and they were often in consequence subjected to very considerable inconvenience. To remedy this evil, it was judged to be expedient, that a house should be erected of sufficient dimensions for their accommodation, in the vicinity of the apartment where the relics were deposited. And as many of the devotees were in indigent circumstances, and the idea, in these ages, was very generally prevalent, that such pilgrimages were highly meritorious, and ought to meet with all due encouragement from the ecclesiastical bodies, ample funds were set apart for their maintenance, for such a period as might be deemed proper for them to remain in the place. This house of entertainment for poor pilgrims was denominated an hospital, and it was dedicated

to St Leonard. Like most of the religious institutions of the times, it had a church or chapel attached to it, which is frequently alluded to in the records of the University prior to the erection of St Leonard's College, as one of the places where that body held its meetings, at a period when the apartments appropriated for its accommodation were very circumscribed. In process of time, the desire for pilgrimages cooled, and the veneration for ancient relics decayed. The hospital of St Leonard's became, in consequence, less and less frequented, and this desertion increased at last to such an extent, that it was obvious that its revenues ought to be appropriated to some more beneficial purpose. An experiment was accordingly made, to convert it into an hospital or nunnery for the reception of females considerably advanced in years, who might there devote themselves to the performance of religious duties; but it failed to realize the expectations which had been formed of its utility, its inmates having exhibited but few indications of a regard either for morality or piety. The prior and convent of the Augustine monastery, within whose precincts the hospital was situated, and from whose revenues it had derived its endowments, came at last in 1512 to the resolution of converting it into a college connected with the University, to consist, according to the charter of erection, of a principal, four chaplains, twenty scholars, who were to be instructed in grammar, music, and the other liberal arts, and six other scholars who had previously acquired a knowledge of the arts, and who, under the superintendency of the principal, were to devote their attention to the study of theology. Two of the chaplains were to be regents or professors in the college, and one of them was to be invested with the cure of souls, and was to act as a sacrist, or a parish minister. For the maintenance of this institution, the whole of the endowments of the ancient hospital were appropriated. These consisted of three farms, upper and lower Kenloway and Fawside, and  $63\frac{1}{2}$  acres of the lands of Rathelpy, in the immediate vicinity of the city of St Andrews; together with the feuduties of that part of the suburbs denominated Argyle, which had been erected on part of these lands, and of the tenements situated between the Priors or Eastburn Wynd, and the Augustine monastery. Of the three farms, one, viz. Fawside, was situated in the parish of Crail, now of Kingsbarns, and the other two, together with the lands and tenements alluded to, with the farm of Pikie, which has been since mortified to the city of Glasgow, form the



parish of St Leonards. The teinds parsonage and vicarage of these lands had not been conveyed to the ancient hospital, but they were now incorporated with the revenues of the college; and this circumstance, when combined with the fact, that one of the four chaplains of the college was to be invested with the cure of souls, would seem to imply, that St Leonards now for the first time acquired the name and character of a parish. The parish thus constituted had its sacrist or curate, who was one of the chaplains of St Leonards College, till the period of the Reformation. When that event took place, many of the parish ministers in Scotland continued to adhere to the Popish tenets, and being in consequence ejected, their parishes became destitute of pastors. The expedient to which the church and the constituted authorities had recourse, to supply this deficiency, was to place two or three contiguous parishes under the charge of one minister, till a more ample supply should be obtained. The parishioners of St Leonards being thus situated, were placed under the charge of the minister of St Andrews; and this arrangement continued to subsist for about thirty years, when Mr Robert Wilkie, minister of St Andrews, having, by advice of the General Assembly, been appointed Principal of St Leonards College, and minister of the parish of St Leonards, he was inducted into these offices, and his successors in the office of principal have, with little variation, been ever since ministers also of St Leonards.

A part of the parish of St Leonards lies in the immediate vicinity of the city, and consists of several detached allotments, surrounded by the town parish; and the remainder, consisting of the two Kenloways or Kenlies, and Pikie, are most inconveniently situated, being from four to five miles distant from the parish church. This latter division of the parish, which is by far the most extensive, though least populous, is bounded by the parishes of St Andrews on the north, and Kingsbarns, Crail, and Denino on the east, south, and west respectively.

To the natural history of the parish it were unnecessary to advert, as the remarks which might be made would be merely a repetition of the statements exhibited relative to the Natural History of the parish of St Andrews, with which it is so closely connected. The same remark is applicable to the great bulk of the other particulars which the "heads of inquiry" embrace.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The Principal and Masters of the United Col-

leges of St Salvator and St Leonards are the chief land-owners in this parish. The only other heritor is the city of Glasgow, which receives the rents of the lands of Pikie, in consequence of a deed of mortification by Scot of Scotstarvet. There are, besides, a considerable number of feuars; but these hold of the college as superior, and pay to it feu-duties corresponding to the extent and the value of their allotments.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest entry in the parochial registers of the parish, is of date June 28, 1696. The register of births and marriages is extant from that period; but with regard to the former, the same remark is applicable which has been made in reference to the register of births for the parish of St Andrews, namely, that it is highly defective, many of the parents neglecting to apply to the session-clerk to have the names of their children enrolled.

When the union took place between the Colleges of St Salvator and St Leonards, the grounds and buildings connected with one of them were no longer requisite for the accommodation of the members of the United College. Those belonging to St Leonards College were in consequence sold; and the apartments in which the masters and students originally resided are now divided between two proprietors, who, with former occupants, have made very considerable alterations and additions to the buildings, so as to form commodious dwelling-houses.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population residing in the city,	266
suburbs,	161
country,	62
The yearly average of births for the last seven years that are entered into the register,	34
marriages,	24
No register is kept of the deaths.	
The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	203
betwixt 15 and 30,	100
30 and 50,	125
50 and 70,	49
upwards of 70,	12
The number of families of independent fortune residing in the parish,	4
proprietors of land residing within the parish of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, but whose lands are not in the parish,	4
Number of unmarried men, bachelors and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	8
Number of unmarried women upwards of 45,	10

The number of Dissenters of all denominations in the parish is 53. A few more usually sit in the dissenting chapels, but have not joined them as communicants. They urge that no accommo-



dation has been provided for them in St Salvator's Chapel, where the St Leonards' congregation assemble for public worship.

There are no blind nor deaf and dumb persons in the parish ; but there are two persons in a fatuous state.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish, which are in a state of cultivation, is 654 ; and the waste or pasture grounds amount to 327 acres. No part of the latter, it is understood, could be profitably kept in tillage. There are no plantations in the parish.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent per imperial acre of the arable land in that district of the parish, which is most remote from the church, is about L. 1, 10s. ; but the district in the vicinity of the city yields an average rent of L. 4 Sterling per acre. The former is partly enclosed, and the farm-buildings and enclosures are in a good state of repair ; but the latter is not enclosed, being rented by the citizens and others in small allotments.

*Quarries.*—The distant district abounds in free or sandstone, of which several quarries have been opened, and the stone, though soft, has been found to be durable, and adapted to the various purposes of the builder.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, as nearly as can be ascertained, is as follows :

Grain of all kinds,	L. 1450
Potatoes and turnips,	600
Pasture grass,	180
Hay and cut grass,	230
Gardens and orchards,	100
All other produce,	50

Total yearly value, L. 2610

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The original church of the parish of St Leonards was situated in the immediate vicinity of the college of the same name, and for more than two centuries it was occupied by the parishioners. About seventy years ago it required extensive repairs, the expense of which would have fallen chiefly on the funds of the United College. A few years prior to this period, however, the Colleges of St Salvator and St Leonards had been incorporated by Act of Parliament ; and to St Salvator's there had been attached by the founder a large chapel, which was still in a good state of repair, and was now the property of the United College ; and it became a subject of discussion among the masters,

whether it would be more eligible to repair the old parish church, or to fit up the Chapel of St Salvator's for the use of the parishioners? The latter was situated, indeed, beyond the limits of the parish, and within the town parish; but the distance between the two was so small, that it was a matter of but little importance to the parishioners whether they were accommodated in the one or in the other. The majority of the masters favoured the idea of the proposed transference, as the other buildings of St Salvator's College were already appropriated for the use of the United College; and the sanction of the presbytery of St Andrews to the measure having been obtained, the chapel was fitted up so as to accommodate the parishioners of St Leonards, and the students attending the United College; and for their use it continues to be appropriated. The walls of the old parish church still remain in a tolerable state of preservation; but the tower and spire connected with it were pulled down soon after the transference. The area of the church formed a parallelogram of about 70 feet long by 18 wide within the walls; and the style of its architecture was neat and appropriate. The interior still contains several monuments, inserted into the wall, to the memory of individuals connected with St Leonard's College, in the earlier periods of its existence; but the most elegant of them has been constructed of a species of stone but ill fitted for encountering the vicissitudes of the weather, and is fast hastening to a state of utter decay.

The greater part of the population of St Leonards being resident in the immediate vicinity of the city, the present substitute for the parish church cannot be regarded as inconveniently situated. But as a distance of between four and five miles intervenes between this portion of the parish and the distant district, it is evident that this latter division of the parishioners must feel, that they reside at a very inconvenient distance from the Church. This, however, is an evil to which a remedy cannot well be applied, so long as they are connected with the parish of St Leonards, as no site for a parish church could be devised that would be suited to them, in common with the other parishioners.

The chapel of St Salvator's, in which the parishioners of St Leonards now assemble for public worship, was erected by Bishop Kennedy about the middle of the fifteenth century. The style of its architecture is the Gothic, and it must have originally been a very elegant edifice. It appears to have been stripped of many of its ornaments of a superstitious aspect, at the period of the Reforma-



tion, and to have suffered still more, so far as its architectural beauty and character are concerned, about seventy years ago, when it received extensive alterations and repairs. In its original state, it was an edifice of 107 feet in length by 29 in breadth within the walls. But as this formed an area, of larger dimensions than the congregation of St Leonards required, a partition wall was erected, by which a considerable space at the western extremity was cut off; so that the length of the Chapel, as it is now employed for public worship, is reduced to 78 feet. It is at present in a good state of repair. The area affords accommodation for 360 persons, and a gallery, which was erected for the use of the professors and students, accommodates 120 more. The seating of the area, after furnishing the requisite accommodation for the professors' families, is appropriated to the use of the parishioners, with the exception of a few pews, which are rented.

The ministers of St Leonards had no manse nor glebe, nor any allowance for either, until within these few years, when a glebe, and ground for the site of a manse, offices, and garden, were designed for them by the presbytery of St Andrews, from church lands in the vicinity of the city, and belonging to the United College. But the present incumbent, at whose request the designation took place, instead of taking possession of the ground, which was under lease, has agreed during his incumbency to accept of a compensation. The glebe is, of course, of the legal extent of four acres, and half an acre added for the site of the manse, offices, and garden; the whole yields a rent of L. 18 to the College.

The stipend attached to the charge of St Leonards, until within these twenty-five years, consisted only of 5 chalders of victual, not, however, derived from the teinds of the lands in the parish connected with the college, these having been originally conveyed to it *cum decimis inclusis*, but from the revenues of the priory of St Andrews, in terms of an old allocation by the Commissioners of Plat, at the period when the Duke of Lennox was commendator of the priory. The incumbent receives, in addition, the rent of half an acre of land, in the immediate vicinity of the city, mortgaged, nearly two centuries ago, for the use of the ministers of St Leonards. When the act of Parliament assigning a grant for the agumentation of the small livings in Scotland passed in 1810, a sum was appropriated to the minister of St Leonards from that fund to raise the stipend to L. 150 Sterling: but the grain was then rated at a much higher conversion than the prices of late

years, so that now there is a corresponding defalcation in the amount of the stipend.

*Education.*—No parochial school has at any period existed in this parish. The young persons residing in those districts which are in the vicinity of the city receive their education at the city schools; and those residing in the distant district, at the school of Boarhills, from which they are distant about one mile only.

*Poor and Poor's Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 15, and the weekly allowance made to them is L. 1, 2s., being at an average nearly 1s. 6d. each. In addition to this regular payment, amounting to L. 57, 4s. annually, occasional demands, to the amount of about L. 20 annually, have been supplied, so that the average amount of expenditure during the last five years is L. 78. To meet this the receipts have been; average annual collection at church door, L. 47, 15s. 8d.; average annual rent of three acres of land, L. 8, 7s.; interest of a sum in the Bank of Scotland, 17s. 5d.; part of said sum drawn from bank annually, L. 21; total L. 78, 0s. 1d.

In 1831, the money in the bank amounted to L. 105, but it is now totally expended; and unless means can be devised, either for diminishing the rate of expenditure, or for increasing the annual amount of the funds, it will be necessary to have recourse to an assessment, either voluntary or legal, to enable the kirk-session to meet the demands against them.

*December 1837, revised February 1838.*

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## PARISH OF FORGAN.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. CHARLES NAIRN, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THIS parish is named Forgan or St Phillans. The former of these, which in earlier periods was written Forgun, Forgon, and Forgund, is supposed to be a Saxon word signifying *foreground*. The conjecture is, to a certain extent, justified by the appearance of the ground which, from a considerable elevation along the banks of the Tay, falls with beautifully sloping banks toward



the south. When or for what reason the alternative name St Phillan was added, is not known.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish, which is of an oblong figure, is nearly 6 miles long and a little more than 2 broad. It is bounded on the north by the river Tay; on the west, by the parishes of Balmerino and Kilmany; on the south, by Leuchars and Logie; and on the east, by Ferry-Port-on-Craig.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect is highly pleasing, from the irregular and undulating appearance of the ground. The only eminences that have received the name of hills are those of St Fort and Newton, the greatest altitude of which above the Tay is about 300 feet. There are several valleys or straths, the largest of which commences at a tract of flat land in the eastern extremity of the parish, and forms, with a slight interruption, the southern boundary, until it reaches the most westerly district, where it bends northward, and forms the west boundary at the Tay. Along this strath, there were several pieces of marshy ground or mires, all of which have been drained and brought under cultivation since the last Statistical Account.

The shore of the Tay, which extends nearly four miles on the north side of the parish, is covered with gravel or large stones, above sleet or clay near high water-mark, and at low water-mark it is entirely sleet or clay. The coast is uniformly of a bold or rocky nature, averaging from thirty to fifty feet above the adjacent shores. Wormit Bay, where the coast is more flat, forms the western extremity of the parish; besides which, there are creeks at Woodhaven and Newport, where there are small harbours. About half a mile east of Newport, there is a headland, which in a very ancient Atlas is marked under the name Skarness. It is now named Craighead.

*Climate.*—The climate of the parish is dry and highly salubrious, which, in connection with its favourable situation for bathing, induces many families to resort to it in the summer season. There are numerous instances of longevity. Few epidemical diseases prevail; and it is remarkable, that during the time of Asiatic cholera not a single case occurred in the parish, although there was an hourly communication with Dundee, where the disease was general and fatal.

*Hydrography.*—The width of the Frith between Newport and Dundee is one statute mile and a little more than a half, or about 2760 yards. During the ebb-tide, the water is brackish, but dur-

ing the flood it is completely salt. The current is strong, particularly during ebb-tide, when it runs about four miles an hour. Springs of excellent quality are found in abundance throughout the parish.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—As forming part of the extensive tract of country that ranges from Alloa to the sea at St Andrews and Ferry-port-on-Craig, the district in which this parish is situated is intersected by a series of trap hills of various elevations. Sandstone and sandstone conglomerate form the basis; and the strata being elevated by the intrusion of the trap, rest upon it with a general inclination to the south-east. The greater part of the parish consists of a number of hills of greenstone, which is of a compact fine-grained quality, and of a dark colour, from a preponderance of augite. Along the banks of the Tay, rocks of amygdaloidal greenstone prevail. The base is an irregular, rather friable and porous greenstone, with numerous nodules, some composed of a greenish earth, others of calcareous crystals, and a great proportion of quartz, assuming the forms of agates, with beautiful concentric lamellar structure.

*Soil.*—The soil, being formed in a great measure from the debris of the trap rocks, is generally of an excellent and fertile nature. The greater part is good black loam and clayey earth. Some portions of it being light and gravelly, are better suited for sheep pasture than for grain crops. In the diluvial soil, particularly in the western districts of the parish, there are numerous transported masses of rock or boulders, consisting partly of fragments of the surrounding trap hills, and partly of primitive rocks, which must have been conveyed by a powerful current from the north-west or Grampian range.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

No history of the parish is known to exist; and the notices of it in Sibbald's History of Fife, and in Martin's Reliquiæ Divi Andreae, are extremely meagre.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are,—

Henry Stewart, Esq. of St Fort, resident,	valued rent, L	2349	6	8	Scotch.
William Berry, Esq. of Tayfield, do.		1082	3	4	
David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, non-resident,		711	0	0	
The Right Hon. Lord Dundas, Newton, do.		640	10	0	
Henry Scrymgeour Wedderburn, Esq. of Wormit, do.		201	0	0	
John Hay, Esq. of Morton, do.		164	6	8	

The estate of St Fort belonged for several hundred years, till the beginning of the last century, to a family of the name of Nairne, who, as appears from Douglas' Peerage and Sibbald's



History of Fife, held various high offices in the State. A younger branch of this family was ennobled, in the reign of Charles II., by the title of Lord Nairne, which was forfeited at the Rebellion in 1745, and restored during the reign of George the Fourth. The estate of St Fort, along with several other lands belonging to the family of Nairne, was sold at the beginning of the last century; and since that time all the lands in the parish have frequently changed owners, with the exception of the small property of Morton, which has continued in the same family for a long period.

*Antiquities.*—There are several cairns or tumuli, composed of small stones, in conspicuous situations of the parish, but they have not been thoroughly explored. A few urns of rude workmanship were found, a few years ago, in cutting the public road at Newport. They were injured by the workmen, and their contents, if they had any, were not ascertained. It is not improbable that a proper examination of these cairns might bring to light some interesting relics, in reference to the contests between the Danes and Picts near the entrance of the Tay.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers do not extend farther back than 1701.

*Modern Buildings.*—On the estate of St Fort, there has been recently erected a very spacious and handsome house in the Elizabethan form of architecture. The mansion house of Tayfield, several years ago, received large additions, in a similar character of building, so as to present the appearance of an entirely new structure, and from its delightful situation on the banks of the Tay, it commands a very extensive and beautiful view of the river and country to the west.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population amounted in 1755 to	751
1793 .	875
By the Parliamentary census for 1801 it was	916
1811 .	898
1821 .	937
1831 .	1090

This increase of population in the parish is obviously caused by its contiguity to, and ready communication with, the town of Dundee, and it is highly probable that the thriving village of Newport will ere long become a large and populous town.

The village population is somewhat more than	-	600
Total number of families,	-	205
Of which employed in agriculture nearly,	-	90

From 40 to 50 are artisans or connected with trade, and not more than 10 are engaged in seafaring occupations.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years was,	23
deaths,	22
marriages,	7

*Character of the People.*—The parishioners are in general quiet and orderly in their deportment. Their houses are for the most part clean and well kept—while some of the cottages are distinguished for their neat and tasteful appearance.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish contains about 5000 acres, nearly 4000 of which are under cultivation.

Of unarable land there are about	250
plantations,	360
grass parks,	370

*Plantations.*—Since the last Statistical Account, there has been a great increase to the plantations on the estates of St Fort and Tayfield. There is still, however, a considerable extent of rocky and hilly ground that might be planted with great advantage. The trees are chiefly of the fir tribe—but the soil is well adapted for the growth of such hard wood as the oak, ash, chestnut and beech. There are several old trees at St Fort and Newton. In regard to size, there are none deserving of notice, with the exception of three yews in the garden at Kirkton, which probably are not to be equalled by any in Scotland. The management in regard to thinning and pruning is excellent.

*Rent of Land.*—The annual rent of land in the parish is from L. 1 to L. 3 per acre. Some near the Tay, from its local advantages, is let at L. 4 per Scotch acre. The general average is about L. 1; 15s. The rent of grazing is L. 2, 10s. per ox or cow, and 10s. per ewe.

*Rate of Wages.*—Labourers earn from 1s. 6d. to 1s. 8d. per day, and have almost constant employment. Masons, carpenters, and other handicraft receive from 14s. to 18s. per week. The wages of ploughmen, paid partly in money and grain, vary from L. 20 to L. 28 per annum,—a number of the farm-servants being allowed to keep cows.

The prices of all produce are regulated by the Dundee, Cupar, and St Andrews markets, where it is sold. In general, they are not so high as those obtained at Kirkcaldy, where there is a stock market, although the grain grown in the north of Fife is of excellent quality.

*Husbandry.*—The tenants in this parish are distinguished by their intelligence, enterprise, and skill. They readily and spiritedly avail themselves of any improvements that may be introduced into the methods of cultivating the land, or of improving the breed



of cattle. The system of husbandry pursued is the rotation of five and six years.\*

The breeds of cattle most encouraged are the Fife, Angus, Ayrshire, and Teeswater. For the last of these the pasture is not considered to be very suitable. The sheep are of the Leicester and Cheviot breeds.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years, and from the respectability of the farmers, it may be inferred that these are favourable to the occupier.

The state of the farm-buildings is in general excellent. Some of the steadings have been rebuilt, improved, and enlarged within these few years. A number of inclosures, chiefly of stone and lime walls, have been made of late years by Mr Berry of Tayfield, upon whose property there are also several fields enclosed by hedge and ditch. On the estate of St Fort, there are also a number of enclosures. But there is still a considerable deficiency in this respect throughout the parish.

*Quarries.*—The quarries in the parish are all whinstone. They are wrought for building houses and enclosures. The freestone is brought either from Angus, or from the quarries on the south of the river Eden, a distance of about nine miles. The lime is also brought by sea, or carted from the lime hills at a still greater distance than the freestone.

*Fisheries.*—There are several salmon fisheries in the parish. They are carried on by net and coble,—a mode of fishing which is found to be very ineffectual in estuaries, so that the rents are of small amount, probably not exceeding L. 150 yearly. About the year 1797, stake-nets were introduced into the Frith, when in one season 7000 salmon were caught with a single net, a quantity nearly equal to a fourth part of the previous produce of the whole Frith and river. This immediately alarmed the proprietors of fisheries in the upper parts of the Tay, who had previously enjoyed a monopoly of the trade, and they accordingly brought an action before the Supreme Court, to have the new mode of fishing put down. This they accomplished after a litigation which lasted till the year 1812, when it was decided that the use of stake-nets in friths and estuaries fell under the prohibition of certain Scotch statutes. It is much to be regretted that a question involving so

\* The sheep husbandry has been carried on to considerable advantage by some of the farmers for improving their light lands, particularly on the farms of Kirkton and Newton.

deeply the interests of those concerned should have been determined not according to the merits of the particular mode of fishing, (as was distinctly admitted both in the Court of Session and in the House of Lords,) but according to the construction put upon certain statutory words in the interpretation of the ancient laws regarding fisheries. In these circumstances, it is remarkable, that hitherto no united efforts have been made by the proprietors along the estuary of the Tay, (in conjunction with others similarly situated,) to bring their case in reference to their fisheries before the Legislature, and so to have it ascertained—not what was the law at a remote period, when the subject was little attended to, and but imperfectly understood, but what ought to be the law for carrying on these fisheries in a way that would at once secure the rights of private parties, and confer the largest amount of benefit on the public. From the evidence that was given before a Committee of the House of Commons, in the years 1824 and 1825, it appears that chiefly in the months of August, September, and October, the salmon ascend the frith for the purpose of spawning in the river, and that they keep the deep water of the mid channel as they pass through the estuary. They descend in the months of February, March, and April, when the *kelts* or spent fish with the fry keep in deep water; the clean fish roaming at large throughout the shallow and deep water.

The salmon that are caught are either sent to Dundee, or packed in ice, and exported by the Dundee steam ships to the London market.

It may be remarked, that, about thirty years ago, a large shoal of herrings made its appearance, in the winter season, opposite to Newport, which employed a number of boats and other vessels during its continuance; but there has not been any shoal known in the Tay since that time.

*Produce.*—The average yearly value of raw produce raised in the parish after deduction for seed, &c. is nearly as follows:

Produce of grain,	L. 10,360
Potatoes and turnips,	3,900
Hay,	630
Pasture,	1,250
Thinning and felling of woods,	200
Fisheries,	150

L. 16,490

*Manufactures.*—There is some weaving in the parish, chiefly of the fabric suited to the Dundee manufacture of coarse linen, &c. The number of individuals thus employed does not exceed 20.



## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Dundee, which is only separated from the parish by the Tay. Cupar, which is also a market-town, is distant about eleven miles. Both of them are frequented by the farmers, weekly, for the sale of produce.

The parish enjoys the benefit of a ready communication with other parts of the country both by land and water carriage. There is a post-office at Newport, and there are two daily coaches communicating with Edinburgh, besides a daily mail-coach lately established.

*Roads.*—The principal turnpike road betwixt Edinburgh and the north-east of Scotland, by the ferry at Newport, runs through the parish for about two miles and a half. The other roads are, 1. the old turnpike to Woodhaven, the length of which within the parish is about three miles; 2. another turnpike road, which joins it about one mile and a half from Woodhaven, leading by Kilmany to New Inn, length within the parish two miles and a half. 3. the turnpike road from Cupar to Ferry-port-on-Craig, length about a mile; 4. a turnpike road made a few years ago betwixt Ferry-port-on-Craig and Newport, length in parish one mile and a half; and, 5. a road of communication betwixt Newport and Woodhaven, length one mile. There are also two parish or statute labour roads connecting the principal or turnpike roads. These are maintained in good order, particularly the great road which intersects the parish into nearly equal parts, and which is always in the best condition.

*Ferries.*—Till the year 1822, there had been, from time immemorial, two public ferries in the parish communicating with Dundee across the Tay, viz. one at Woodhaven, and another at Newport, about a mile farther east. These ferries were supplied by sail boats of a small and inconvenient description.

About the year 1790, a new turnpike road was made to the ferry of Woodhaven, which, therefore, became for some time the principal ferry, and commanded the greatest resort of passengers, &c. But about the year 1806, by the exertions of the late Mr Berry and his son, the present proprietor of Tayfield, another turnpike road was made communicating with that betwixt Woodhaven and Cupar, at a point distant about four miles from Newport. In consequence of this and of the communication with Dundee by Newport being shorter and more convenient, the thoroughfare began gradually to change, so as at length to make

Newport the principal place of resort for those travelling to the north-east.

In the year 1807, the attention of the counties of Fife and Forfar was directed to the risk and inconvenience connected with the Ferry across the Tay. At that period, there were 25 boats on the passage, manned by upwards of 100 men and boys. But these boats and crews were found to be alike unsuitable for the safety and accommodation of the public ; and as upon investigation it was found that the ferry produced a revenue adequate, not only for the maintenance of a better system, but for providing funds for the erection of suitable piers and landing-places adapted to all states of the tide, an Act of Parliament was obtained in 1819, constituting the Justices of the Peace and Commissioners of Supply in the two counties of Fife and Forfar, with some official persons, trustees for erection of piers, and otherwise improving and regulating the ferry. Soon after this act had been obtained, the trustees were induced to direct their attention to the advantage of substituting a steam-boat in place of the numerous sail-boats by which the ferry had been previously maintained, and, after careful inquiries, they decided upon making the experiment with a double or twin steam-boat, such as had been in use on the American rivers, and also at Hamburgh, and on the Mersey, near Liverpool. A vessel of this description was accordingly built under their direction, at an expense of betwixt L. 4000 and L. 5000, and placed on the ferry about the end of the year 1821. This vessel was made to ply alternately from Dundee to Woodhaven and Newport, but, as this place was found to be very inconvenient for passengers, it was resolved, in July 1822, that the boat should call at Newport only. In consequence of this arrangement, a great advantage immediately arose to the public, and the intercourse rapidly increased ; but as the trustees were bound to maintain a separate ferry at Woodhaven, a new Act of Parliament was applied for and obtained in 1822, by which the trustees were authorized to substitute one landing-place, and to erect piers at Newport and Dundee, for the purposes of the ferry. Very complete ferry harbours were accordingly erected at these places, and an additional double or twin steam-boat was procured. So that from having been, as it was at the date of the last Statistical Account of the parish, one of the worst and most dangerous, it now ranks among the safest, most expeditious, and convenient ferries in the kingdom. Besides the steam-boat, which during the day affords



a passage hourly from each side, there are kept a large sail-boat and a pinnace and yawl, with crews at each station ready for the accommodation of the public, when required. About two years ago, the trustees found it expedient to let the ferry for five years, and it is now maintained by the lessees, who have since placed upon it a single steam-boat of sixty horse power, which is a greater steam force than those formerly in use. The lessees, besides maintaining the ferry in terms of the regulations of the trustees, are bound to pay a rent of L. 2200 a year, out of which, interest at 3 per cent. is paid on the large debt of L. 40,000 incurred in the ferry improvements. The remainder of the rent goes towards the extinction of the debt.

For the year ending 31st December 1834, being the year previous to that on which the ferry was let, the following is an abstract of the number of passengers, cattle, horses, &c., which were conveyed across the ferry:—

Passengers,	86,607	Cattle,	4,598
Four-wheeled carriages,	268	Sheep and lambs,	11,911
Gigs,	578	Carts of goods,	2,798
Horses,	3,794	Barrels bulk of goods,	3,375
Carts,	3,727		

The following is the state of the revenue for each month of the same year:—

January,	L. 324 12 4	July,	L. 481 15 9
February,	315 8 0	August,	520 9 2
March,	350 12 11	September,	448 5 0
April,	383 8 9	October,	442 9 0
May,	418 16 11	November,	364 6 4
June,	470 0 0	December,	324 1 3
Making a total amount of L. 4844, 5s. 5d.			

It may be important to observe, in regard to the above statement, as illustrating the beneficial results of affording good accommodation to the public, that since the improvements of a steam-boat and low-water piers were introduced, the number of passengers has been increased by about 20,000, and the amount of revenue has been very nearly doubled.

*Harbours.*—The harbours of Woodhaven and Newport are the private properties of Mr Stewart of St Fort, and Mr Berry of Tayfield. They can accommodate vessels of from 100 to 150 tons burden, and are kept in good order. They answer the purposes of exporting the produce of the neighbouring country, and of importing lime, coal, and other necessities. The ferry harbour at Newport, which is the property of the ferry trustees, is a splendid erection. It is 350 feet long, and 60 wide, with a carriage-way on each side, and with a depth of five feet water at low water

of spring tides. This work was designed by the late Sir Thomas Telford.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in a most beautiful and sequestered spot—but being at the south-east extremity of the parish, it is very inconvenient for the population in general, and particularly for those resident in the villages along the banks of the Tay, from whom it is distant from three to four miles. The date of its erection is not known. It formed one of the priory kirks belonging to St Andrews, and was built, according to tradition, in its present site, for the special accommodation of a wealthy lady resident in the adjoining mansion-house of Kirkton, who contributed largely of her substance for that purpose. It received a thorough repair in the year 1770, and was reseatd at the commencement of the present century. It is seated for about 350, so that the extent of church accommodation is greatly under what is required for the population. During the last year, the heritors have contemplated the erection of a new church in a more central situation. And although some difficulty has been experienced in determining the site that would prove most advantageous for the parishioners, it is to be hoped, that this inestimable boon will not be long withheld, as it is at present impossible for the aged, the infirm, and the young to enjoy the benefits of religious instruction in the parish church.

There is a meeting house near Newport in connection with the Independents. The number of families belonging to it is about 10, and the clergyman is an individual who is highly respected for his personal piety, and his anxious endeavours to benefit the neighbourhood in which he resides.

The manse, which is in good condition, was built in 1803. The stipend is 15 chalders and 6 bolls of meal and barley in equal proportions. The glebe contains upwards of 9 acres.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish. The parochial teacher's salary is the maximum, and the branches taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, geography, practical mathematics, Latin, and French. The number of scholars is about 120, and the fees, varying from 2s. 6d. to 5s. per quarter, amount to L. 24 per annum.

A new school-house was erected by the heritors, about ten years ago, in a central part of the parish, in consequence of which the attendance has greatly increased. And an excellent dwelling-



house for the schoolmaster, with a suitable garden attached to it, has this year been built adjoining the school-house.

The other school is kept by two females, and is attended by about 30 very young children, who are instructed in some of the elementary branches of education.

*Poor.*—The average number of regular paupers is from 4 to 6, who receive a weekly allowance of 1s., 1s. 6d., or 2s. There are from 12 to 15 more, who obtain occasional relief in money, and regular supplies of meal and coals. The church-door collections have hitherto been sufficient for defraying these expenses. But, for several years, a heavy charge has been incurred for the support of two lunatics, who are boarded in the Dundee asylum. There is also a fatuous young man, for whose maintenance a yearly allowance is given from the session funds.

*Inns.*—There are two inns and four ale-houses in the parish.

*Fuel.*—The only fuel used is coal, which is brought chiefly by sea, although tenants and cottars cart it occasionally from the Fife coal hills, about ten miles distant. The prices of that which is sea-borne is from 4s. to 5s. per bushel.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The more striking differences betwixt the present state of the parish and that which existed at the time when the last Statistical Account was published, consist in the improvements that have been made in agriculture, which have been such as greatly to increase the produce, and to improve the appearance of the lands; in the improved state of the roads, some of which, particularly the present great road to Newport, were at that time nearly impassable; in the important changes that have taken place in regard to the Dundee Ferry; in the large increase that has been made to the village of Newport; in the reclaiming and cultivation of much waste land; and in the plantations that have been made on the estates of St Fort and Tayfield.

By the number and excellent condition of the roads, and the ready means of communicating with other parts of the county, every obstacle to the farther improvement of the district has been removed; and from the character of the present proprietors and tenants, there can be no doubt that these advantages will be made available for advancing the prosperity of the parish, and promoting the welfare of its inhabitants.

*January 1838.*

## PARISH OF CERES.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, AND SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOSEPH CRICHTON, MINISTER.\*

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

THE parish of Ceres contains five separate villages, two of which are of considerable extent. The most extensive of these is Ceres, from which the parish takes its name. The second largest village is named Craigrothie; and the third, Chance Inn. Coaltown was once a thriving village, inhabited by colliers.

*Name.*—The name is to be found in ancient records written Siris, Cyres, Cyrus, Cires and Ceres.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The greatest length of this parish is about 8 statute miles. The breadth varies from half a mile to 4 miles. The river Eden runs along the north-west part of the parish for a short way. The parishes of Kemback, St Andrews, and Cameron, bound Ceres towards the east; Kilconquhar and Largo towards the south; Scoonie, Kettle, and Cults towards the west; and Cupar towards the north. The boundaries between Cupar and Ceres are of a most irregular kind, and the very natives are, at some places, puzzled to tell whether they are standing in their own parish.

*Climate, Diseases, &c.*—The climate is mild, and exceedingly healthful. The fogs that blow from the German Ocean are here removed or modified, and the sickly of St Andrews often make a salutary sojourn in some part of Ceres, where the east wind is felt as a pleasant breeze. The people are, on the whole, a healthy race. There are one or two persons at present in the parish, above ninety years of age; and in Craigrothie, where there are not many more than 200 inhabitants, there died lately three women, all of whom were above ninety.

*Hydrography.*—The beautiful and useful river Eden runs along the north-west of the parish, for the space of a mile and a half.

\* Drawn up by the Rev. George Cook, late Assistant to Mr Crichton.



It once abounded with excellent trout, but their numbers are now greatly diminished; and, whether from the manufactures established on different parts of the river, or from the numbers who go forth to fish with the natural flies, you must either adopt their cruel mode of fishing, or content yourself with an empty basket. There are several streams within the parish. Three of them are from the east; one from the south, and one from the west, unite near the village of Ceres, and form what is called Ceres burn. It passes through the village, and runs a mile and a half, north-east through the parish, and then enters the beautiful den of Dara, and shortly afterwards joins the Eden. Ceres burn, though at times an apparently harmless and insignificant rivulet, occasionally becomes a great and dangerous water. The suddenness of its swelling adds much to the danger. It has already washed away one good stone bridge, \* and has threatened its successor. There were once a good many trout in Ceres burn, but there are now very few. Every part of the parish is well supplied with springs or rivulets of excellent water. Several springs are impregnated with the quality of the soil out of which they arise. There is a mineral spring on the mains of Kirklands, the property of Mr Crichton. It possesses valuable medicinal qualities; and, being highly impregnated with carbonic acid gas, acts as a grateful stimulant.

*Geology, Soil, &c.*—The soil is of great variety. Along the banks of the Eden, in the north-west part of the parish, it is light and sandy, and chiefly lies upon a freestone rock. The greater part of the parish is a deep cold earth, lying upon whinstone rock, limestone rock, or tilly clay. In the neighbourhood of the village of Ceres, the soil is a free earth, lying upon gravel. The mosses and moors, which are mentioned in the former Statistical Account, are in great part rendered arable. Along the north side of the parish, there is abundance of freestone rock. Whinstone rock abounds on the south side. There are several quarries, which are very valuable either for the purposes of building or supplying the roads with metal. There is a quarry at Pitscottie, to which many of the feuars in Ceres have free access in building their houses. There are quarries also at Kinninmonth and Craigrothie, which are very valuable for the purposes of building. On the farm of Newbigging of Craighall, there is a range of basaltic rock or pil-

\* There is a very old and narrow bridge over this water. It stands adjacent to the present, and may likely outlive it, as it outlived its predecessor. Archbishop Sharpe crossed this old bridge in his last and fatal journey from Edinburgh to St Andrews, or rather to Magask moor.

lars, extending for half a mile from north to south. In many places columns of immense size have been precipitated from the top of the cliff to a great distance.

*Mineralogy.*—This parish abounds in minerals. Both coal and limestone are found, and regularly worked in several of the adjoining parishes, *i. e.* Cults, Largo, and St Andrews; and along the whole southmost part of this parish, there are appearances both of coal and limestone. There is no coal worked now; but this has arisen from the expense of the working, and not from the want of coals. The Teasses coals can be traced over a considerable distance of country. A line might be traced from Teasses, by Hall Teasses, Newbigging, Craighall, and Craighall to Coaltown. About Hall-Teasses, the coal is described as very fine, and as gradually becoming blind and deprived of its bitumen. There are numerous old pits between Hall-Teasses and New Guilston. At Craighall Castle, the coal is separated from the limestone by a mass of trap, which has the effect of tilting the coals and adjoining strata upon edge. This tilting up of the strata into an almost vertical position, has brought into notice no less than seventeen seams of coal within a space of 500 yards. There are, in like manner, seventeen seams of coal as near the limestone at Pittenweem. They resemble the above, and are named the Ceres coals; and their individual names and thickness, along with the interposing strata, may give an interesting view of the curious alternations that take place in the formation of coal.

No.		Rocks.		Coals.	
		Yards.	Feet.	Feet.	Inches.
1.	Luncart Coal,			4	3
2.	Shale and Soft Sandstone,	20	0		
3.	Make-him-rich Coal,			3	0
4.	Shale,	0	2		
5.	Two-foot Coal,	Wrought as one seam,		2	0
6.	Sandstone and Shale,				
7.	The Thick Coal, average thickness,	60	0	16	0
8.	Sandstone and Shale,	12	0		
9.	Four-foot Coal,			5	0
10.	Metals, very hard,	6	0		
11.	Six-foot Coal,			6	0
12.	Metals passable,	10	0		
13.	The Little Splint,			2	6
14.	Metals,	13	0		
15.	Bowanton Coal,			3	0
16.	Hardstone,	8	0		
17.	Donaldson Coal,			1	6
18.	Hard Sandstone,	14	0		
19.	North Coal,			3	0
20.	Sandstone and Shale,	8	0		
21.	Little Coal,			2	6
22.	Sandstone and Shale,	5	0		
23.	The Five-foot Coal,—2 inches of stone in it,			4	6



	<i>Rocks.</i>		<i>Coals.</i>	
	<i>Yards.</i>	<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Fect.</i>	<i>Inches.</i>
24. Sandstone and Shale,	2	0		
25. The Four-foot Coal,			4	0
26. Metals passable,	18	0		
27. The Whin Coal,—2 inches of whin in it,			4	0
28. Metals,	2	0		
29. The Rum or Foul Parrot Coal,			3	0
30. Metals passable,	70	0		
31. The Black Coal,			2	6
32. Metals,	0	0		
34. Balefield Coal,			2	6

The line of coals above-mentioned bears in a direction parallel to the limestone. There are nineteen seams of these coals. Towards Coaltown they gradually flatten and occupy a greater surface of country. Beyond Kinninmont the coals are broken up, and some of them driven aside by the eruption of the trap hill of Ladedda. The thick coal and other five of the seams are tossed up to the top of the hill of Drumcarro, where they are regularly wrought. The south slope of Ladedda-hill has many marks of old pits upon it, proving that the coals pass along there. The limestone which runs parallel with the line of coal is wrought regularly at present, in four different quarries. There is the Tequ-liats quarry; there are two on Teasses property, and one at Ladedda.

1. The Tequ-liats lime is wrought by tarring. It is of a sparkling gray colour, and crystalline. It is 11 feet 6 inches thick, and in three beds. Organic remains are exceedingly rare in this quarry. The strata above the limestone are 2 feet 6 inches of sklut, then 18 feet of shale—containing a good deal of pyrites, which sometimes also occurs in the limestone. Above the shale are 5 feet of sandstone, and 4 feet of alluvium. This limestone follows the coal, all the way to Craighall, where it *has* been wrought. About six men are generally employed in this quarry. They reckon the dip to be 1 fathom in 4 to S. E.

2. There is the Woodtop quarry or Teasses middle limestone. It is compact, and of a bluish gray colour, contains corallines and encrinites, and is less dark than the former limestone. The strata above it are 4 feet 6 inches of inferior limestone or sklut, in which are numerous fissures filled with beautiful incrustations of calcareous spar; and where the fissures are large, stalactites, and stalagmites of a dazzling whiteness are formed. Above the sklut, there are 20 feet of shale, and 1 foot of alluvium. This limestone is also wrought by tarring. It is 10 feet thick, and in four beds. It dips about 1 fathom in 4. It has been worked for about thirty years, and from ten to fifteen men are employed in it. It is used for laying on

land, or for building, and is shipped in considerable quantities from the adjoining ports.

3. There is the Teasses *white* limestone quarry. The limestone is 10 feet 6 inches thick, and divided into five beds. Its colour is whitish gray, and there would thus seem to be a regular progress in changing the colour from Tequiliats quarry. This white limestone is very compact and difficult to work,—organic remains very scarce. The dip is 1 fathom in 5 to S. E. The strata above it are 5 feet of inferior limestone, containing a large portion of argillaceous matter, 14 feet of shale, 7 feet of sandstone, and 20 feet of ferruginous basalt, disposed in irregular columns or blocks. This limestone is wrought under ground. The pillars are about 6 feet, and 10 feet between them. It was previously wrought by tarring, but has been worked under ground for thirty-two years. Eight men are generally employed. They enjoy excellent health. Indeed, there is something wholesome in the air under ground; and more than one martyr to hooping cough have been sent by their physician, to keep company with the workmen, for greater part of a day, in the hope of curing them. The result was generally favourable. About 4000 bolls of this limestone are turned out in the year,—it is used for purifying gas, for bleaching and plastering, as well as for land.

There is a great similarity between the three limestones already mentioned. They are all about one thickness; their structure and fracture resemble each other; the strata above them are similar, and the organic remains are the same; and in all probability, they are the same bed of limestone, thrown up successively by faults, passing parallel to their line of bearing. The Teuchats limestone appears at Craighall, and has been worked there; and bearing west a little, it trends round in a semicircular form to Ceres toll-bar, where it is lost sight of. There is a thin coal found under it. The limestone here dips north. It was attempted to be wrought, by mining it under the trap hill. They had not, however, proceeded many yards, when the limestone was found to be broken in masses, and full of fissures filled with ferruginous decomposed trap, and so much altered as to be unfit for use. The roof, though composed of firm shale, could not be supported, from the shattered state of the limestone left as pillars. The mining became dangerous, and was consequently abandoned.

4. The limestone is also wrought at Ladedda; it gets flat here, or assumes the basin form. It is seen on the north side of Ladedda Hill,



dipping towards it. This limestone is 11 feet thick, of a whitish gray colour, and compact structure. It is supposed to extend to the trap at the foot of Duncarro Hill. The strata above consist of two feet of inferior limestone termed sklut. It is unlike the other skluts, and is entirely composed of organic remains, united by a calcareous cement, the prevailing fossil being the encrinite, found in all positions, dislocated and studded all over, giving it the appearance of a conglomerate. There are also found in this sklut the shells of the Producta in great abundance, a few Terebratula, some fish teeth and scales. Above this sklut are 14 feet of shale, 4 feet of schistose sandstone; 2 feet 6 inches of shale; 15 inches of coal; 2 feet of brown inferior limestone; 8 yards of various strata, hitherto unascertained; then coal 2 feet 4 inches thick; 4 yards of various strata, then another coal 2 feet 6 inches thick, then a different kind, *i. e.* the 6 foot coal inclined at a high angle, and then the 10 foot coal, almost all vertical. The limestone is wrought by tarring in Ladedda quarry, and from eight to ten men are employed in the work. It is impossible, in a work of the present nature, to give a full account of the lime and coal which abound in the parish of Ceres; but it will be apparent, from what has been already written, that there is here a very extensive field either for theorists or practical speculators; and if the demand for coal continues to increase, it will likely be found to be neither a bold nor a very profitless speculation to re-open some of the coal-works that have been allowed here to get into disuse. Those who wish to study the subject fully are referred to a valuable article in the Quarterly Journal of Agriculture for June 1836, written by Mr David Landale. I have borrowed liberally from his article.

No coal or limestone has hitherto been discovered on the north side of Ceres water. There is at Baltullo mill, near Ceres, a seam of the "wright's black coal," which is used for marking. The seam is from 18 inches to 2 feet thick. The dip is nearly the same as that of the limestone on the south side. Some of this black coal was sent to America, and L. 7 was received for one ton of it. The proprietor of the ground does not wish it to be wrought, and has closed up the quarry.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Ceres appears to have been made up, in past generations, of a number of distinct baronies. In the parochial registers, of date 1631, there is particular mention of the various deacons who be-

longed to the several baronies of the parish. These baronies were five or six in number. Ceres is a burgh of barony, holding of the Hopes of Craighall, and the feuars are bound to attend the head courts; but it has no charter. Hopes are now entertained of its receiving the privileges of a burgh. Craigrothie, which is adjacent to Struthers, seems to have long enjoyed these privileges. Its inhabitants still elect their bailie and councillors; and two cases are on record, where individuals were sent to them for judgment, and disposed of according to their pleasure. The Earl of Crawford patronized this council, and left an important case to its decision.\*

*Land-owners.*—The present land-owners are, The Earl of Glasgow; Mr Wilson, Craigrothie; Captain Wemyss, Wemyss Hall; Sir George Campbell, Edenwood; Major Christie, Findas; Captain Ker, Greenside; Captain Stark, Teaszes; Sir Alexander Hope, Craighall; Messrs Thoms, Rumgay; Mr Thomson, Newbigging; Mr Lumsden, Callange; Mr Speirs, Kinninmont; Mr Peddie, Bankhead; Lady Baird, East Pitscottie; Baldinnie is divided into seven shares; General Bethune of Blebo; Mr Barclay of Magus; and Mr Normand of Baltullo.

The original proprietors of Craighall and Struthers seem to have possessed great part of the parish; and many valuable properties are still held in feu from the Hopes of Craighall. These feus, in former times, were equal to the full value of the rent of the property; but at present, from the rise in the value of land, they are equal to about one-sixth of the rent which is paid by the farmer to the feuar.

*Parochial Registers.*—The records of the kirk-session are in preservation, from the year 1620; and from that date to the present, they have been kept regularly. Under date 1638, we find an account of the Confession of Faith, which was agreed to in 1560, and immediately after it, a solemn declaration or covenant, in which the nobility and gentry bind themselves to stand by the confession, and to withstand the many attempts which were then made against their religion. This declaration is signed at the kirk of Ceres, “the last day of Apryll 1638,” by “Lindesay,” “Hy. Ja. Hope,” and “Jo. Scott,” the minister, elders, and heads of families. In 1667, William Rowe, minister of Ceres, had been deposed, because he would not conform to Episcopacy; and we find, in the records of that date, an edict by “Lord St Andrews,” appointing Alexander Leslie to be minister in the room of Mr Rowe.

\* In a case of horse-stealing, sentence of banishment was passed and executed.



*Antiquities.*—There is a great variety of antiquities in this parish. There are three very fine ruins. The ruins of Craighall stand about half a mile south-east of Ceres, upon the north bank of a lovely den. The den is sequestered and deep, and of considerable extent, and well wooded. The ruins still have an appearance of grandeur, and serve to indicate what had been the magnificence of the mansion. Craighall was formerly the seat of Sir Thomas Hope, King's Advocate, (from whom the principal families in Scotland of the name of Hope are descended,) and it continued to be the residence of Sir Thomas's heirs till the beginning of the last century, when it was sold to another branch of the family, who succeeded to be Earls of Hopetoun. It is now the property of Sir Alexander Hope, brother to the late John, Earl of Hopetoun.

There are also the ruins of Struthers, or, as it is called in some old papers, Auchter-uther-Struther. This was formerly the seat of the Earls of Crawford, and it stands about two miles south-west from the village of Ceres. Man has been less merciful to this place than "time;" and there now exist very scanty remains of the once splendid house, and warlike towers and battlements. The park around the house, which is enclosed with a stone wall, contains about 200 acres of ground. The venerable beeches of a very large size, which are mentioned in the last Statistical Account, have died or been cut down.

There is a fine tower of freestone, well hewn and nicely jointed. The tower is about 24 feet square, and about 50 or 60 feet high. It stands upon an eminence, commands a fine prospect, and is seen at a great distance in different directions. It is formed by one lofty vault on the top of another. Upon the top of the uppermost, which is surrounded with a battlement, there is an apartment covered with slate. It stands about a mile and a half west from the village of Ceres. It was the dwelling-place of the family in 1662, for in April 29 we find this notice, "The Lady Scotstaret, younger, married to the Laird of Erdlee, surnamed Preston. The marriage feast stood at Tarvet."

*Remarkable Events.*—On Wednesday, the 5th day of October 1785, Sig. Vincentius Lunardi, a Florentine, having ascended at Edinburgh, in an air balloon, at three o'clock afternoon, descended a mile to the eastward of Ceres, at twenty minutes past four P. M. This was the first aërial voyage made in Scotland, and the daring adventurer, in performing it, passed over about twenty miles of sea,

and about twelve of land. The house is still standing in which he was received on his descent.

*Eminent Persons.*—Lindsay of Pitscottie, author of an entertaining history of Scotland, was a native of the parish of Ceres, and proprietor of a small estate in it.

Thomas Buchanan, rector of Ceres, who lived immediately after the Reformation, was a man of considerable abilities, and of great influence in the church.

Mr Thomas Haliburton, minister of Ceres, and afterwards Professor of Divinity at St Andrews, was esteemed both as a divine and as a scholar, and wrote several pious and learned treatises.

*Modern Buildings.*—Since the date of the last Statistical Account, there have been built two uncommonly good mansion-houses on the properties of Teasses and Edenwood. The one on the former property is built so as to command a splendid view of the Frith of Forth.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population was	2540
1793, - - -	2320
1811, - - -	2407
1821, - - -	2840
1831, - - -	2762
Number of families in the parish, - - - -	606
chiefly employed in agriculture, - - - -	183
trade, manufactures, or handicraft, - - - -	281

Since 1831, there has been a great increase in the number of the people; and, from the accounts of their establishments, which were lately given in by the several manufacturers in the parish, we are authorized to say, that the population must now be about 3000 at least. In 1793, 138 looms are said to have been employed in the parish. From 700 to 900 of the inhabitants are now employed in weaving and winding. From 170 to 200 are employed regularly in the mills; and, with the exception of about 30, who are employed in the lime-works, the greater part which remains of the working population is agricultural. The town of Cupar is so near to Ceres, that there are few shopkeepers or venders of any commodities in the latter place.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—The people are universally industrious, and in general they cultivate the sister virtues of temperance and frugality. Considerable attention to neatness and cleanliness also may be discovered among them. Dr Arnot, author of the former account, mentions, that among the women, the cloak and bonnet had become substitutes for the plaid; and among the men, that the bonnet was supplanted by the hat.



It is singular enough, that the plaid and bonnet should now be both regaining their former estimation. There exists also among the people a considerable deal of information, and a general desire for knowledge. A subscription and circulating library was commenced by them in 1828. It consists now of 500 volumes, in which there is varied as well as much useful reading. There are 100 subscribers to this library.

During the last three years, there were 3 illegitimate births in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The valued rent of the parish is L. 8248, 1s. 1d. Scotch. There are 8000 acres of land in the parish. Of these, about four-tenths are in tillage, five-tenths in grass, and one-tenth in planting and moor. There is little of moor land. The average rent per acre is L. 1, 10s. The farm-houses, and the enclosures on the farms, are, in general, good. The produce does not exceed greatly the double of the rent, which is paid from the land. The gross produce cannot be much under 30,000 bolls of corn, and 15,000 do. potatoes. Dr Arnot, in his time, makes 12,000 of corn and 2000 of potatoes! But in a parish where so many have their patch of corn, and their planting of potatoes, in addition to their live-stock, it is impossible to form a correct estimate of the real produce. About ninety years ago, there were 20 flocks of sheep kept in the parish. Now there is not one; but there is a great number of cattle fed for the market. The last Statistical Account states 90 to be the number of ploughs. They are now 130 at least. A quantity of pork also is sent from this to London.

The rent of a cottage is L. 2. It is to be regretted, however, that the cottar system does not prevail to any extent here. The farms vary in extent from 40 to 365 Scotch acres. The farmers have adopted, with great success, the various improvements that have been lately suggested in the system of agriculture, and the land is everywhere in a high state of cultivation. Draining has been carried on to a very great extent; and as there are either quarries or plenty of stones in the neighbourhood, the drains are almost all regularly built. The fields are well enclosed, and in general with *stone* fences. There is one thrashing-mill, which is driven by steam, three thrashing-mills, and one mill for making butter, driven by water. There is also one windmill, which thrashes corn, and makes meal, and saws wood. It was erected on the property of Greenside, by the present proprietor, and serves admirably for the

three purposes above-mentioned. It is the only one, I believe, in the county of Fife. A great quantity of lime has been laid out on the several farms in the parish. The farmers, as a body of men, are of an enterprising and industrious spirit; and, as they have lime and stones near at hand, and other necessities for improving land, they have not been slow to avail themselves of these means. The quantity of water which abounds in the parish, and often overflows the land, is the great obstacle to improvement in agriculture. On one farm, during the late wet season, about 1000 cart-loads of surface were carried off half an acre of land.

The leases are, in general, of nineteen years' duration.

*Manufactures.*—Since the date of the last Statistical Account three spinning-mills have been built in the parish, and a bleachfield establishment has been erected at Duraden. In 1827, two mills were built on the grounds of Easter Pitscottie. The machinery is propelled partly by water, and partly by steam. The steam, in general, is only required in summer, occasionally when the water is light. The mills belong to Messrs William and James Yool, manufacturers, Ceres. There is accommodation for the families of the workers in the buildings at these mills; and they contain altogether upwards of 150 individuals. There is a teacher and a small library attached to the mills. The other spinning-mill, which belongs to Mr David Yool, was erected at Tarvit in 1799. The machinery at this mill goes partly by water, and partly by steam; and the power is applied also to the turning of a saw-mill. The three spinning-mills are occupied in preparing and spinning flax, tow, and yarns. The raw material is obtained from Dundee: and the yarns are sent partly to the Dundee market, and partly to manufacturers in Fife. 150 men, women, and young people are employed. The bleachfield establishment was erected in 1825 by some manufacturers in Ceres. It has received the name of St Ann's Bleaching Company, from a well of that name in the vicinity. The number of hands employed varies from 35 to 40. The supply of brown raw material for it, is chiefly obtained from the mills already mentioned. Previous to the erection of this bleachfield, little was manufactured by the weavers in Ceres except "Brown Silesias;" now the yarns are all cleaned and bleached, and the people are employed in weaving dowlas and sheeting. From 700 to 900 are engaged in this employment; and from L. 50,000 to L. 60,000 Sterling worth of dowlas and sheeting are annually manufactured in the parish. To any one who reads this statement



of the manufacture, it will be evident that the various works are most profitably arranged. The mills supply the bleachfield, and the bleachfield supplies the weavers: and while there is a saving, in this manner, as to the carriage of the various articles, there is also an encouragement to the manufacture of the place. There is every likelihood that the manufacture of this flourishing place will, in a few years, become more extended; and there are, at present, some proposals of erecting another mill on a very extensive plan.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets.*—There is a weekly market in Cupar, the county town, distant only two miles and a-half. But this widely extended parish has an easy access to markets in several places; and some of the farmers find it convenient to send their produce to Largo, some to St Andrews, and a very few to Dundee. There are two annual markets or fairs held in the village of Ceres,—one on the 24th June, and the other on the 20th day of October; and both of them are most numerously resorted to, as excellent wool, and corn, and horse, and cattle-markets.

*Means of Communication.*—A turnpike road runs from east to west through the whole length of the parish. There is also a road which runs from north to south, through the breadth of the parish. In summer, a daily-coach runs through Ceres, and joins the steam-boat which leaves Largo for Edinburgh. A messenger, paid by the inhabitants of Ceres, carries letters or papers daily to Cupar, the post-town. There are regular carriers from Ceres to all the neighbouring towns.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Ceres parish is a rectory, which, before the Reformation, belonged to the Provostry of Kirkheugh, a religious house at St Andrews. A considerable part of the east end of the parish formerly belonged to the parish of St Andrews, and about the year 1620, was annexed to Ceres, *quoad sacra tantum*, (as it was long thought;) but the present incumbent discovered that there was no such reservation, and it is now annexed, *quoad sacra et civilia*. Ceres originally belonged to St Andrews presbytery. In the old church of Ceres, there was an aisle on the south, which belonged to the family of Craighall, and which, before the Reformation, was a chapel dedicated to St Ninian. The schoolmaster of Ceres uniformly receives a presentation to the chaplainry. There used to be a salary of L. 3 Scots paid to him; but the houses in Cupar from which this salary was paid cannot

now be discovered. The present church was built in 1806. It stands on a height, where formerly stood the old church and chapel: it was situated on the outskirts of the old town, but since the new town or Bridge-end was built, it may be said to be in the centre of the village. It is seated for 1100, but actually holds 1300, and the seats are very advantageously disposed both for hearers and speaker. These seats all belong to the heritors of the parish, and there is no rent charged for the use of them. Seats are appropriated for the proprietors and farmers, and the remainder are free and open to the people, and, except on very bad days, they are well filled. There are two meetings in the church, winter and summer. The average number of communicants is 1000. The right of patronage, by a grant from the Crown, was vested in the Crawford family. The stipend, by a decret of the Court of Teinds, was fixed at 16 chalders victual, half meal, half barley. The manse was built in 1788, and has had little alteration or repair since that time. The glebe consists of 7 acres of excellent land.

There are also two meeting-houses in the village of Ceres, one for the Associate Congregation of Antiburgher Seceders, which was built in 1744, the other for the Presbytery of Relief. To each of these are attached a settled clergyman and regular congregation. A brotherly feeling and Christian spirit pervades the greater number of the members of these three congregations; and you will occasionally find them in each others place of worship.

There are about 86 families in this parish attached to the Relief Church, and about the same number to the Secession.

*Education.*—There are one parochial, one Secession school, and three contribution schools, besides the schools at Pitscottie and Tarvit Mills. There are also two female schools, besides one or two small private schools. By a contract entered into, anno 1631, between Sir Thomas Hope, advocate to Charles I., on the one part, and Lord Lindsay, patron of the parish, the heritors thereof, the minister, and kirk-session on the other part; Sir Thomas Hope, in consequence of mortifying 100 merks Scotch yearly, for the benefit of the schoolmaster, was to have the right of presenting the schoolmaster. The right of trial and admission was to be vested in the minister and session. In this state the matter still continues. The schoolmaster receives the value of this mortification in addition to his salary, which is the maximum. The average number of scho-



lars who attend at this parish school is 150. The fees may amount to L. 65 per annum.

In October 1836, the scholars entered the new school-house, which had been built by the heritors for their additional accommodation, and which would easily contain 200 scholars and upwards. It is a very handsome building, and far surpasses the common structure of school-houses. The exterior is elegantly finished, and the interior is in harmony with the outward appearance. This attention to the comfort and health of the young is an act of true mercy, for which the parents cannot be too thankful. The heritors propose to build a dwelling-house for the teacher.

One of the other schools is held in the village of Craigrothie. A school and school-house were built by subscription in 1806; and ground was given by the proprietor of Craigrothie, who still contributes to the support of the teacher. Excepting this contribution, the fees are the only support of this teacher. From 60 to 70 scholars attend him. There is a Sunday evening school, which is attached to this school, as well as to the parochial one, and each of them have got libraries for the use of those who attend. Their is also another Sunday school in Ceres, which possesses a library for the use of the young. About 50 or 60 girls attend one of the female schools, which is kept in the village of Ceres.

*Societies.*—In 1795, a Friendly Society was established in the village of Ceres. It now consists of 200 members, and it possesses a capital of L. 600, which is laid out on heritable security at 5 per cent. The sum of 4s. 6d. is annually contributed by each of the members,—and this small contribution entitles them to receive 4s. a week, if for a *time* they should be *confined* to bed; or 2s. if they are merely unable to work. To those who are superannuated, and have no hope of returning to work, 1s. 6d. a week is given. This society has been the means of enabling many to enjoy various comforts during sickness. In 1765, a branch of the Grand Mason Lodge of Scotland was established in Ceres. Its members are numerous, and 60 of them have joined themselves into a Friendly Society. They contribute 6s. annually, and during the time of sickness they receive 3s. 6d. a week. There is also in Craigrothie a Friendly Society, which was formed in 1825. The number of its members at present is 60. The object of this Society is to give aid to members when in sickness, and to widows, when the funds can afford. The funds are at present in so flourishing a state, that the society gives 15s. a year to widows.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Besides the usual funds for the poor which arise from collections at the church, and from dues on marriages, &c. there is the rent of three acres which were left to the session, and also the interest of L. 460, which was left by the late Miss Halkerston of Carskardo. Originally, this sum was L. 500, but the necessary expenses on legacies have reduced it to L. 460. It is lent out at 4 per cent. There is no regular assessment. But the heritors, every year, make a voluntary assessment, so as to meet all deficiencies in the other sources. The church collection may amount to L. 60 per annum. There is a great deal of money expended for the good of the poor in a private way, by benevolent individuals who reside in the parish. This private charity falls, of course, very heavily on the few heritors who reside in the parish, and to whom frequent applications are made. A certain quantity of coals and meal is annually distributed among the poor, at the private expense of some of the heritors. The average number of poor on the roll is 50, and the yearly expenditure is about L. 120.

*Fuel.*—There is an abundant supply of good Scotch coal in the neighbourhood; and in common seasons coal is the cheapest fuel.

*Inns.*—The number of inns may be about 25. Their corrupting influence has not hitherto been very general.

*November 1837.*



# PARISH OF KILMANY.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. HENRY D. COOK, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Situation and Boundaries.*—THE parish of Kilmany is situated in the north-east district of the presbytery of Cupar, in the county of Fife. It is bounded on the east by Forgan; on the south by Logie; on the west by Dairsie, Cupar, and Moonzie; and on the north by Creech and Balmerino. The small village in which the church is placed lies at nearly equal distance from Cupar, the county town, and Newport, which is now the principal ferry to Dundee, and the north, from Edinburgh and the south of Scotland. The distance from each of these places is nearly five miles. The parish constitutes a part of that rich and fertile valley which commences at the low grounds of Forgan and Leuchars, on the east, and runs (through the north of Fife) to the west, by Rathillet, Letham, and the new inn on the left hand; and to Newburgh by Denbog, on the right.

*Name.*—The origin of the name is Celtic; some supposing that it means the Church of the Monks, although there are no remains of such a building. Others think, that it signifies the church in the valley,—which is characteristic of its situation.

*Extent.*—The length of Kilmany, from east to west, is 6 miles; and through the whole of it runs the high road from Newport to Edinburgh by Luthrie and Melville Gates, &c. It is narrow towards the east, but it gradually widens to the west. The greatest breadth betwixt Hazleton walls, and the south boundary of Myre-Cairnie, is four miles. The shape of the parish resembles that of a bottle, the manse and church being placed at the neck of it. The hills by which the valley is formed are branches of the Ochils. Their shape is peculiar, and almost uniform. From the east, they gradually ascend to a considerable height, and suddenly fall towards the west. This is not only the case with the large range which separates Kilmany from the Tay; but also with the smaller ridges which at different places divide the parish. The principal range

is extensive, and at some places rises more than 400 feet above the level of the sea. It terminates at Newton, three miles to the east of Kilmany; the southern branch of the Ochils, which forms this valley, lies in Logie parish, and extends towards Leuchars. Goales den is the only fissure of any importance in the parish. It is a beautiful and romantic spot, and I daresay would afford ample materials for the speculations of the geologist. It is a deep cut in Kilmany hill, looking towards the south, through which a small rivulet flows from the higher grounds, and by which, during the course of ages, it was probably formed. It is almost dry in summer; but in winter after storms, it sends down a considerable quantity of water to the Motray. It was planted with great taste by the late proprietor, Mr Thomson, and beautiful walks were made through it; but these, since his lamented death, have been permitted in a great degree, to go out of order.

*Hydrography.*—The valley itself presents some striking features. The lower part of it has been under water to a considerable length and depth. This is evident from the height of the sandy hillocks scattered through the lands of East Kinneair, and from the nature and formation of the mound, upon which the village and church of Kilmany are built. From the elevation of these, above the bottom of the valley, the water must have stood 20 feet above the channel of the Motray. From the nature of the sand deposited, it is probable that the east part of the valley formed an extensive lake. The grains of it are soft and small, and do not resemble the hard sharp sand which is found upon the sea shore. The upper part of the valley has also been under water, but rather as a marsh than deep standing water. The shape of the different hillocks and mounds shows that the lake has been gradually formed; the sides of them rise with a gentle slop, and, generally speaking, the tops of them are smooth. There must have been some barrier to the east of Kinneair, which prevented the Motray having free access to the ocean; but the precise place where it was cannot now be ascertained. How it was removed, is equally uncertain; the height of the water, accumulated for ages, probably forced a passage for itself to the sea, and left the valley a morass, which it continued to be for ages. It is not above fifty years since a great part of it was drained, and converted into excellent arable land. There is a vague tradition that there was once a passage boat upon this lake to Cruvie and Straiton, and in confirmation of this, it is stated that a small anchor was found when the meadows were first ploughed.



The Motray takes its rise from the different sides of Norman's Law; from east of these, a small stream proceeds, and they unite before they enter the parish at Starr. Its course is through the lowlands of Starr, Murdo-Cairnie, and Mountquhanie; it bounds the back fields of Rathillet and Newbigging, where it is not seen from the public road; it again appears flowing through Kilmanyden, crosses the high road at the mill, and continues its course to the Eden by Kilmany church and the two Kinnears. In summer, it is a small stream not ten feet broad, and one deep; but in winter, it often assumes a threatening appearance. It then not only fills but overflows its banks, and affords to the Eden a great mass of water. It turns in this parish three corn mills, one thrashing mill and one saw mill.

There is another small stream, which has its source to the east of Rathillet school. Its name is Cluthie or Colluthie. It joins the Motray below the church. Its whole course is little more than a mile. The water of it is pure and excellent, and it does not become dry during the hottest summers. It is the boundary betwixt Kilmany and the estate of Forret, in Logie parish. There are two other small burns, one of which passes through Lochmalonie and Rathillet, and the other, which is the south boundary of the parish below Myre-Cairnie, does not fall into the Motray. The parish, from these streams, is admirably adapted for grazing.

*Climate.*—The climate of Kilmany, from its situation, is mild and pleasant. The heat in summer, in the morning, and forenoon, is sometimes oppressive; but not often so; and by the afternoon, the wind goes round to the east, and gives us a cooling breeze from the German Ocean. The cold in winter is seldom intense; but the one, from the commencement of January 1838, is an exception from this remark. The thermometer on the evening of the 14th of February stood at 6 of Fahrenheit. It must have been lower than this, during the night; and at nine next morning, it was at 9. I have kept the thermometer regularly for the last seven years:—but during that period there has been no cold so intense as that which I have now mentioned. To give a fair idea of the pressure, and the temperature of the atmosphere, I send an average of the one, and the other, for the months of 1835 and 1836. It is accurately drawn up by my friend, Mr M<sup>c</sup>Gillivray, parochial teacher, from a record of the weather, daily and regularly kept by myself. The barometer is marked at nine morning and eleven at night, the thermometer at nine morning, twelve at noon, and eleven at night.

Greatest cold during the preceding twenty-four hours is taken from a self-regulating thermometer at nine morning.

1835.	Barometer.			Thermometer.		
	Morn.	Even.	Gt. C.	Morn.	Noon.	Even.
January,	30.0 $\frac{4}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{1}{2}$	31	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	35
February,	29.6 $\frac{2}{10}$	29.6 $\frac{3}{10}$	36	40	44	37 $\frac{1}{2}$
March,	29.9 $\frac{2}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{9}{10}$	34	41	46	36 $\frac{1}{2}$
April, .	30.1 $\frac{1}{10}$	30.1 $\frac{4}{10}$	36	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	51 $\frac{1}{2}$	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
May, .	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{9}{10}$	41	51	55 $\frac{1}{2}$	42
June, .	30.1 $\frac{1}{2}$	30.1 $\frac{2}{10}$	45	57	61	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
July, .	30.0 $\frac{1}{2}$	30.0 $\frac{1}{10}$	49	60	64 $\frac{1}{2}$	51
August,	30.0 $\frac{8}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{9}{10}$	53	60 $\frac{1}{2}$	66	54
September,	29.6 $\frac{9}{10}$	29.6 $\frac{8}{10}$	44	53 $\frac{1}{2}$	59	46 $\frac{1}{2}$
October,	29.7 $\frac{8}{10}$	29.8	39	45	51	41
November,	29.9 $\frac{8}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{4}{10}$	36	41	45	39
December,	30.1 $\frac{8}{10}$	30.1 $\frac{9}{10}$	32 $\frac{1}{2}$	37	40	35
1836.						
January,	29.8	29.9 $\frac{8}{10}$	32	37 $\frac{1}{2}$	39	35
February,	29.8 $\frac{1}{2}$	29.8 $\frac{8}{10}$	31	35 $\frac{1}{2}$	40	34 $\frac{1}{2}$
March,	29.7	29.4 $\frac{3}{10}$	33	39	44 $\frac{1}{2}$	36
April, .	29.8 $\frac{8}{10}$	29.8 $\frac{1}{10}$	35	43	48	37
May, .	30.4 $\frac{3}{10}$	30.4 $\frac{2}{10}$	39	51	60	44 $\frac{1}{2}$
June, .	29.5 $\frac{9}{10}$	29.6	47	56	62	49
July, .	29.9	29.9 $\frac{3}{10}$	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	56 $\frac{1}{2}$	61 $\frac{1}{2}$	47 $\frac{1}{2}$
August,	30.0 $\frac{5}{10}$	30.0 $\frac{6}{10}$	46	56	61	48
September,	29.9 $\frac{5}{10}$	29.9 $\frac{2}{10}$	41	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	57	44
October,	29.7 $\frac{1}{10}$	29.8	38	45 $\frac{1}{2}$	50 $\frac{1}{2}$	42
November,	29.5 $\frac{9}{10}$	29.6	33	38	41	37
December,	29.7 $\frac{4}{10}$	29.7 $\frac{2}{10}$	33 $\frac{1}{2}$	38 $\frac{1}{2}$	40 $\frac{1}{2}$	37

In 1835, the greatest cold was during the night of January 18th. The thermometer stood at 18. The greatest heat was, on August 18th, 76. Greatest cold, 1836, November the 9th, 22 $\frac{1}{2}$ . The greatest heat, August 11th, 74. The greatest height of barometer 1835, was 20, January 3d being 30.8 $\frac{1}{10}$ , the lowest October 26, 28.7. In 1836 barometer highest, May 14th, 30.6 $\frac{3}{4}$ , lowest, October 13th 28.7 $\frac{4}{10}$ . The weather is often cold and ungenial in March, April, and the beginning of May, the wind being in an east or south-east direction. Our highest winds in spring and autumn are from the south-west. The willow trees all lie from that direction—but our greatest falls of rain and snow are invariably from the east or south-east. Since 1827 until March last, the roads in winter have not been completely blocked up; and when they were difficult to pass, this arose more from the snow being drifted than from any serious fall. The harvest has commenced, in this valley, since 1821, as follows.

1821, August 30,	1826, July 22,	1831, Augt. 8,	1837, September 7,
1822, do. 12,	1827, August 23,	1832, do. 21,	
1823, Sept. 16,	1828, do. 14,	1833, do. 20,	
1824, Augt. 25,	1829, do. 29,	1834, do. 12,	
1825, do. 22,	1830, Sept. 3,	1835, do. 28,	
		1836, 29,	



The earliest harvest for the last seventeen years being 22d of July 1826, and the latest September 16th 1823. This statement is the best practical account of the climate of Kilmany and its neighbourhood.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—On these subjects, it is enough here to state, that the principal range of hills to the north of Kilmany is composed of trap or whinstone. There are various kinds of this rock. There is a dark blue species on Kinnear and East Kilmany, which is hard, and brittle, and with difficulty stands the operations of the hammer. It is in a solid body, and must be separated from the parent mass by gunpowder. There is another species of this rock on West Kilmany. It is equally hard, its colour is lighter blue, and its grain considerably coarser and more tenacious. It is difficult to work; but, by hard labour, it can be cut into any size and form, for building. It appears in the quarry in great blocks,—separated from one another, by a thin coating of a substance like yellow ochre. Judging from an imperfect examination, the quarry behind Mountquhanie, is of the same description. On the top and face of the hills, when it has been long exposed to the weather, it assumes the aspect of rotten rock. On the lower range of hills, such as are behind West Kilmany farm house, it is not in solid masses, which need to be blown; but can be separated into comparatively small pieces, by the common pick or lever. From this species of trap, some of the roads in the neighbourhood are repaired. At Hill-Cairnie and Myre-Cairnie, at the south-west of the parish, the hills assume a different appearance, although they are of the trap species. The rocks, of which they are composed, are equally hard with the trap, on the north range; but the colour, instead of a dark blue, consists of a dirty white, mixed with red; they are well adapted for coarse building, for dikes, and drains, and for metal to the roads. When properly chosen and shaped, they look tolerably well for buildings of higher pretensions. The whole of Mr Russell of Hill-Cairnie's steading, which is the most substantial in the parish, with the exception of the corner stones, lintels, and skews, is built of this stone. There are various other kinds of the trap family scattered amongst the hills.

*Zoology, &c.*—In addition to those birds which are common throughout the country, the pheasant has been partially introduced amongst us; but, from the want of cover, they are by no means numerous, and, from the same cause, will not become so. The parish is visited by the common and larger snipe; and occa-

sionally during winter, by the woodcock. Immense flocks of wild geese traverse the air and the fields in spring and autumn; and in winter, when the weather is mild; but from the open nature of the country, few of them fall by the gun of the sportsman. Wild ducks were at one time common; but they have, in a great degree, retired before the agricultural improvements which have taken place. A few of them are still occasionally seen about Kilmany mill-dam, and upon the Motray. The same may be said of the water hen, or common gallinule. The heron is seen; but does not build in the parish. The yellow wagtail is also rare. The ringdove produces in abundance, and for some years past has become a nuisance to the farmer. In winter, they fly in flocks, and during a storm, attack every thing green which appears above the snow. They are particularly severe upon the turnip crops. Many acres of this valuable root are annually severely damaged by this destructive bird. Means should be employed by proprietors and tenants to diminish their numbers. The lapwing appears in March and April, and the corncrake's voice is heard during the summer, from May to October. Both these birds disappear before the winter. During a storm, or rather at the approach of it, various species of gulls are seen in flocks on the fields, mixing with the common crow. They appear upon these occasions to feed on the worms turned up by the plough, and to devour whatever grain or seeds come in their way.

The Motray was once famous as a fishing stream. Its course was not direct, nor its waters equally shallow, as they now are; but at every turn, there were excellent pools or crannies, where the finny race could harbour, feed, and grow to maturity. By the improvements in agriculture, its character, in this respect, is in a great degree lost. It now assumes the aspect of a large even drain. As such, it has answered the excellent purposes for which it was cast. It has converted a large tract of marshy ground into rich and productive fields; but it has removed those corners and holes, where trout, pike, and minnows delight to dwell. The angler is now seldom seen on its banks; and when he does appear, his labour and patience receive a very poor reward.

There are no very rare species of animals found in this neighbourhood. The roe-deer was for a long time banished from this part of the country, but of late has again made its appearance. A much larger species of deer, at one period, must have existed in this parish, and neighbourhood. This is evident from some fossil



remains which were some years ago ploughed up in Hill-Cairnie Myre. One skeleton of the deer species was found with immense horns, both in point of height and breadth. It is now in the possession of Professor Fleming of Aberdeen. This must either have been a distinct species from any which we now meet with ; or the roe-deer, enjoying perfect liberty, abundance of meat, and extent of country, and, freed from the presence and persecution of man, must then have reached a size of which, in the present day, we have no conception. The badger is seldom seen ; and I was not aware that the otter was ever seen here, until last year.

*Woods.*—Along with the writer of the last Statistical Account, we have to lament the want of woods and plantations. With these judiciously scattered through the parish, and on the hill-tops, Kilmany would present a scene which the man of taste would delight to contemplate. But, by most of the heritors, little has been done to make it one of the most beautiful parishes in Scotland. From this censure, David Gillespie, Esq., and John A. Thomson, Esq. and Captain Pearson, are excepted. Mountquhanie, under the fostering hands of Mr Gillespie, has become a splendid residence. The woods planted by him, on the neighbouring hills, to the north-west and south, are yearly adding to the charms of his estate. The state of Kilmany, in this respect, was equally improved by the correct taste of the late Mr Thomson. The hills which separate Kilmany from the Tay were planted by him, and are now clothed with trees. Walks were cut through them, from which the Tay, the Carse of Gowrie, and the Angus hills are seen. Myre-Cairnie-hill, and the top of the ridge, which runs from it towards the east, are completely covered with wood, affording a striking object to the eye, and shelter, and climate to the soil. Whilst on these properties, the plantations have been increased,—on other estates, they have been considerably diminished. The beautiful hill of Rathillet, which was covered with fine dark fir trees, is now bare almost to its summit. A part of it has been again planted with larch, but many years must elapse before it regains its late splendid and romantic appearance. The plantations on the top of East Kinnear are now being cut. However much their removal will add to the arable acres of the farm, it does not improve its external appearance. It has given to this estate, when viewed from the south, a cold and bleak aspect, which it did not formerly possess. The old wood of the parish is about the mansion houses of Mountquhanie, Lochmalonie, and Rathillet, &c. ; and some fine trees

are about the village and church of Kilmany. The wood principally planted is the larch, the Scotch fir, the plane, the beech, and the ash, with a few oaks interspersed. They all, from their rapid growth, appear to be congenial to the soil and climate. The oldest tree is supposed to be a plane, which is still vigorous, at Hill-Cairnie.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Men—Halkerstones of Rathillet.*—The individual connected with the parish who holds the greatest place in the history of his country, is the famous but unfortunate David Hackston, or Halkerstone of Rathillet. It is not known whether he was born at his family seat; the records of the kirk-session do not go back so far. He appears to have been a man of talent, energy, and courage, and a friend of civil and religious liberty. He had great influence over the party with whom he acted. He was connected with the men who killed Archbishop Sharp on Magus Muir, although he was not actually concerned in the murder; for which crime he was condemned, and executed at Edinburgh in the cruellest and most barbarous manner. His descendants possessed a considerable share of his talents and courage. One of them was engaged on the Whig side in the Rebellion of 1715; and long after this affair was ended, rode a fine horse, which he himself took from the enemy. Another of them, was sheriff of the county. The last male branch of the family was Mr Helenus Halkerston, a man well known in his day, for his talents and eccentricity. He sold the estate of Rathillet to a Mr Sweet, upon particular conditions, about the year 1772 or 1773. Since the death of Miss Halkerston of Carphin, which took place thirty years ago, this respectable family is extinct, at least in this part of the country.

*Clergymen.*—Since the Revolution, this parish has been blessed with several eminent clergymen. Mr Alexander Pitcairn, Mr Brown, and Mr Smibert, who held the benefice in succession, from February 23d 1697, to April 4th 1759, appear from the minutes which were kept by them to have been able and intelligent men, and they died ministers of Kilmany. Mr Joseph M'Cormick succeeded Mr Smibert in April 17th 1760, and continued in the parish only for a few months; he left it in the following November. He afterwards published the *Life of Principal Carstairs of Edinburgh*, and died Principal of the United College of St Andrews. Mr William Gibb was then ordained minister in September 24th 1761. This gentleman, for some cause not stated



in the minutes of session, was not popular as a minister, principally, I believe, from non-residence in the parish. A number of parishioners seceded from the church, and built the meeting-house at Rathillet, which continues to this day. He was soon presented to the church of Uphall, by the Earl of Buchan, and was succeeded in May the 10th 1764, by Mr John Adamson. He was most popular, not more from the eloquence of his preaching than the excellence of his private character, and the kindness of his heart. Mr Adamson was called to a much wider field of usefulness, to the second charge of St Andrews, in October 1772. He died in 1808, first minister of that city, and Professor of Civil History in the United College. He was succeeded by Mr Andrew Hutton, from Culter, an amiable man, a conscientious minister, and a considerable antiquary, who died at Kilmany 1792. He was succeeded by my late brother, Mr John Cook, of whose talents and acquirements, and virtues, it would be indelicate for me, who loved and revered him from my infancy, to speak. He left the parish in 1802, for the Hebrew Chair at St Andrews, and died in 1824, after having filled the divinity chair of St Mary's from 1808. He published in 1821 his "Inquiry into the Books of the New Testament," which contains the substance of a very small part of his course of lectures on theology. He was succeeded in May 13th 1803, by even then the brilliant and accomplished Mr Thomas Chalmers, and now the well-known and justly celebrated Professor of Divinity in Edinburgh. This distinguished clergyman, who was beloved and admired by all classes of the community, and whose name is still dear to every one who sat under his ministry, discharged the duties of this sequestered parish until July 1815. His first works were written and published while he was minister of Kilmany. The present incumbent has enjoyed this benefice, since September 28th 1815. It would be unfair, in this place, to pass in silence the late Rev. John Tindal, Minister at Rathillet. By nature, he was a man of a sound and vigorous mind, and of the most amiable and generous dispositions. He assiduously cultivated the talents with which he was gifted, and had acquired a great store of varied and extensive information. He died in September 15th 1836.

*Land-owners.*—The landed proprietors, according to their valued rent, are the following gentlemen:—David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton and Mountquhanie, the principal heritor; John A. Thomson, Esq. of Charleton and Kilmany, &c.; Charles Kinnear, Esq. of Kinnear and Kinloch; Robert Russell, Esq. of Hill-Cairnie:

David Carswells, Esq. of Rathillet ; Captain Hugh Pearson, R. N. of Myre-Cairnie ; James Horsburgh, of Lochmalonie ; Henry Wedderburn, Esq. of Birkhill, &c. and W. Kinnear ; Henry Inglis, Esq. of Newington ; Mrs Robertson of Ballendean and Newbigging ; and John Inglis, Esq. of Colluthie. Only a few acres of Mr Inglis' property are in Kilmany parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers I examined with great care in November 1828, and I then made the following minute with regard to them : Kilmany, November 16th 1828, “ I have examined with considerable care the records of the session of Kilmany, and I have found them wonderfully complete, notwithstanding their present miserable condition. They have been originally bound up as a volume ; but at this date they consist of separate sheets and leaves. When they were put into my possession, they were in great disorder, and it required nearly a week's labour to put them into their present condition. A considerable part of them are consumed with damp and bad care. The marking of the pages is gone ; and I am afraid, that, in their present wasted state, they will not keep together for many years. The paper is so much consumed, that they cannot be bound into a volume. All that I can do to preserve them after being arranged is to enclose them in a portfolio. They commence 1st of November 1696, and they go down to 1729 ; the month at which they close, is worn off. In the records there is a blank from October 31st 1697 to June 1st 1701 ; also a leaf of distribution of kirk-session 1728. I have observed in these early records of the kirk-session no other blank. I have put the registers of births together at the end. They consist of three fragments. The first of the register of births begins May 5th 1706, and is very accurate, although a good deal decayed, until August 18th 1710. The second portion of the register of births commences November 18th 1711, (leaving a blank from August 1710,) and continues regular although much wasted at the bottoms of the pages, until October 12th 1718. Third portion of the registers of births commences November 18th 1721, (leaving a blank from October 1718,) and it goes down to 1727. This is in far worse condition than the other two. It is so much wasted that I could not ascertain the particular month in 1717, when it closes. The records which I have examined and described begin, as before stated, November 1696, and come down to 1729.” This volume of minutes of session has been long in bad condition. So far back as when Mr Adamson



was elected minister in 1764, it is stated, that the session-clerk produced "an old illegible book of minutes, about the year 1669-70,\* &c. a book in which were contained a register of baptisms, &c. from November 1696 to December 1729, inclusive, and minute of discipline, collections, distributions of the same dates;" another book, containing a register of baptisms, &c. from January 1730, to the present time, and minutes of collections and distributions from January 1730 to December 1728, inclusive, and discipline by itself, from January 1749 to the present time; another book containing only minutes of collections and distributions from January 1749 to the present time." These are all in existence. They were most accurately kept by Mr Adamson. They have been continued to the present day, except minutes of discipline. Since Mr Adamson's time, until very lately, this part of the parish registers has been completely neglected. No entry has been made with regard to any meetings which have taken place betwixt the heritors and kirk-session.

Little is known of the ecclesiastical state of the parish before 1697. From a monument lately turned up in the church-yard, it appears that a Master James Thomson was minister of Kilmany for forty-two years previous to 1646. He died in that year aged seventy-eight; and it adds, and "that of his beloved wife, Besse Smith, with whom he lived forty-one years, Deo Lavs, amen." No tradition remains in the parish with regard to this reverend gentleman. In Limond's Diary, a Mr George Thomson is mentioned as minister of Kilmany, and dying there about 1655. But whoever were the ministers of Kilmany previous to 1697, it is evident from a minute of session, May 7th 1707, that the sacrament of the Lord's supper for a long time had not been regularly dispensed. These are the words of it: "Being Wednesday the session met, and considering that this congregation has long wanted the benefit of the sacrament of the Lord's supper, the minister (Mr Brown) did intimate to them his design of celebrating that solemn ordinance; and the session considering what may be the most proper season for it, did condescend upon the last Sabbath of June next; and farther considering that the communion tables were all broken and gone to ruin, the session recommends it to the minister and elders in the town of Kilmany to agree with James Miles, wright, to buy timber, and make up the said tables, and to mend some parts of

\* I never saw the old illegible book of minutes about the year 1699-70. The earliest which was put in my possession was 1st of November 1696.

the pulpit that is decayed, and to do other things needful about the church. And the session farther recommends to the minister, to write to the provost of the Old College, either to furnish the communion elements, or allow a fund to buy them, being, it is said, that the Old College was in use and wont so to do, and being proprietors of the tithes of the parish, are obliged to allow a fund for, or else provide elements for, the use of the parish." Upon this solemn occasion, "Elizabeth Forrester, Lady Mountwhanie, spouse to James Crawford of Mountwhanie, did provide the pulpit with a covering, together with a good silk fringe, and other things belonging thereto; as also she did give as much fine linen as served for the use of the table cloaths at the Sacrament. The session, out of gratitude to the said lady, did order the recording of this in the minutes." It is stated in the minutes of June the 8th, "the provost of the Old College declines to allow a fund, or afford communion elements. The session recommends to the minister to take advice what means must be used to obtain a fund for this purpose in time coming." June 22d, the session met, intimation was made this day, that the fast day before the sacrament was to be on Wednesday next. The sacrament was dispensed on the 29th of June. The session met on the 2d of July; "the minister reported that he had taken advice what method must be used for obtaining a fund for providing the communion elements, and that the advice was, that there was no other way but to raise a process before the Session Lords, now Commissioners for Plantation of Kirks and Valuation of Teinds, and that he was resolved, when a fair opportunity offered, to take that method, both with respect to his stipend and the communion elements. The session, considering that the minister's stipend, being but a scrimp enough maintenance, could not allow of paying the elements out of it, they unanimously agreed to pay them out of the collections, gathered at the sacrament, until a fund shall be otherwise provided." In July 6th 1714, the session met, and the minister represented to them that he had at last, after a long depending process, obtained a decret of modification and locality of his stipend; wherein a fund is provided for communion elements, which he pays out of the same, and so the poor's box will be no longer burdened with the payment of communion elements.

In the minutes, there is nothing particularly interesting to the general reader. In November 8th 1704, the session gave to Daniel Guines, as encouragement for setting up a printing-house



in Dundee, 14s. In May 5th 1709, a collection was ordered for those whose houses were burnt in Edinburgh. "In October 23d 1747, the session met, and the minister represented that the rebels having been in his house several times during the late rebellion, and carried off some of his effects, he had put in places he thought they would not suspect, some papers of value in his custody, particularly a bill of seventeen pounds sterling, belonging to the kirk-session, and that he could not recover the said bill." As this bill was afterwards renewed by the person who owed it, the kirk-session lost nothing by this depredation of the rebels.

The Lawries of Hill Cairnie are the oldest residents in the parish. They have lived upon the same farm for 118 years, and, from 1720 to 1834, they were members of the kirk-session. The first, Mr David Lawrie, was admitted into the session of Kilmany in 1720. His son, Mr David Lawrie, was elected an elder in 1766; and his son, Mr David Lawrie, (who died 1834,) in May the 5th 1814.

*Antiquities.*—Kilmany is not remarkable for the number of its antiquities; and there are no traditions with regard to those which exist. A considerable number of stone coffins have been dug up behind the farm-house of Starr. A few earthen vessels with bones were found on the farm of Drumnod, and one of the same description at Kilmany. Some of these were of the rudest construction, and others of them displayed more refinement of taste, and more elegance of workmanship. Those found at Drumnod were in the possession of Dr Fleming of Aberdeen, when he was minister of Flisk; and Mr Edie, Kilmany, had a part of the urn found on his farm, for many years. Coins have been occasionally picked up at Myre-Cairnie and Hill-Cairnie, of different sizes and value. These I never saw, and there are none of them, as far as I know, in the possession of any individual in the parish.

*Modern Buildings.*—The house of Mountquhanie, built by the late Mr Gillespie, is an elegant modern structure, on a fine commanding situation looking to the south. The policy around it is kept in excellent order, and the whole appearance of the grounds about it is improving in beauty every year. The other houses of resident heritors are neat and commodious, and suited to their circumstances, to the extent of their families, or to their individual tastes.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Kilmany has been decreasing for many years. This arises from the enlargement of the farms, from the want of

ground for feuing, and from the introduction of machinery for bodily and manual labour. In the last Statistical Account it is stated, there are now living in the parish 396 males and 473 females. When the census was taken in 1821, the population was 751, 345 males and 406 females. In 1831 it had fallen to 707, 334 males and 373 females, and since that date it is as low as 685 or 690. From the time when the last Statistical Account was written, thrashing-mills have been universally introduced, and have led to a considerable diminution of the population; and individuals with large families naturally retire from a parish, where there are no manufactories, to towns and places where they can obtain employment for their children. The average of births for the last seven years has been 15, of marriages 3; of deaths it is not so easy to speak accurately, as some die in the parish who are buried elsewhere, and many of the dead from other parishes are buried in Kilmany churchyard. This will appear evident from the following statement: There have been buried at Kilmany, for the last seven years, 106; of this number only 45 have died in the parish. Those who died here, and were buried elsewhere, are not recorded in our register. I should think that twelve is a fair average of those who have died in the parish for the last seven years.

The average number of persons under 15 years,	240
betwixt 15 and 20,	203
30 and 50,	159
50 and 70,	68
70 and upwards,	14

There are no noblemen in Kilmany parish.

Number of proprietors of land of yearly value, L. 50 and upwards,	9
The number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, above 50,	11
Unmarried women upwards of 45,	21
Number of families,	137
of inhabited houses,	127
of uninhabited,	5
Illegitimate children for the last three and a-half years,	9

The inhabitants, from the profession which they follow, and from their temperate habits, are healthy and strong, and many of them reach to very advanced age. Since 1830, there have died eleven individuals, whose united ages amounted to 924 years; the average age of each, 84.

From an early period, Kilmany has been an agricultural parish, and its population possessed of much natural talent, great industry, and pious and amiable dispositions. Every clergyman who has laboured amongst them, has had good reason to bear testimony to their piety and correct conduct, and has received from them, many



marks of affection and esteem. This amiable feature in their character, has hitherto been general.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of males employed in agriculture is 120. They may be thus divided: proprietors farming their estates or part of them, 5; tenants, 12; cottars or agricultural married servants, 37; unmarried do., 66; total, 120. The industry of the parish in other respects may be estimated from the following statement: day labourers, 18; weavers, 10; wrights, 2 masters, workmen and apprentices, 11; sawyers, 5; smiths, 6 masters, workmen and apprentices, 4; publican, 1; toll-keeper, 1; tailors, 2 masters, apprentice 1; masons, 3; gardeners, 2 masters, workmen and apprentices, 4; grocers in a small way, 2; millers, 3, assistants, &c. 3; beadle, 1; shoemakers, 3 masters, workmen and apprentices, 6; ministers, 1 Established, 1 Secession; parochial schoolmaster 1, schoolmistresses, 2; butler, gamekeeper, &c. 5; retired, 3; total, 101.

There is no large manufactory in the parish. The weavers are employed at home work, and when this cannot be obtained, they are supplied with Osnaburgh, or other cloth, by the merchants of Dundee and Cupar; or by their agents in the country. In addition to the number who weave, mentioned above, there are several females who occupy themselves in this manner, during the winter. In summer, they generally give up this work when the farmers need their assistance.

The only branch of industry, except agriculture, which is carried on to any extent, is a saw-mill, which was some years ago erected by Mr Thomson of Charleton. It has been occupied, ever since it was built, by Mr William Malcolm, wright. During the course of the year, it is by him actively employed, and cuts down a considerable quantity of wood. Its power is not sufficiently strong for large trees, but it is admirably adapted for cutting paling, for preparing wood for sheep flakes, and for converting inferior timber into staves for herring barrels. Many thousands of these are annually sent from this mill to Leith, and other places on the Forth where herrings are cured.

*Agriculture.*—The whole of this parish is arable, with the exception of the hill tops, which are planted. The number of cultivated acres is about 3550 Scotch, or by imperial measure, 4477. There is no land which continues waste, or in a state of natural pasture. There is no undivided common. The number of acres

planted is not above 150 acres Scotch, or 190 imperial measure. The trees which are planted are the Scotch fir, the larch, the beech, with an intermixture of a few ash, plane, and oak.

*Rent.*—The average rent of the arable land is about L. 2, 5s. to L. 2, 10s. per acre; that of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 per ox, or cow, and of 12s. per ewe, or full-grown sheep for the season.

*Wages.*—The wages of married farm-servants are from L. 9 to L. 12, with house and garden,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, 9 bolls of potatoes per annum, and 1 pint of sweet milk daily; of unmarried servants living in bothies, L. 10 to L. 11, with the same allowance of oatmeal and milk; and potatoes for supper. Fuel and bed-clothes are afforded by their masters. In winter the rate of common labourers is from 8s. to 9s. per week; in summer from 9s. to 11s. Artisans vary from 10s. to 16s. per week. Women for agricultural work 8d. without meat; do. for washing, 1s. with meat, but the hours are long.

*Grain.*—Varieties of seed used, and the quantity sown per Scotch acre: *Wheat.*—White do. now principally Hunter's; little red do.; quantity sown per Scotch acre, 4 bushels. *Barley English.*—Chevalier do. much used, and approved of; the only objection against it, is its being ten days later of ripening than other varieties; quantity sown per acre from 5 to 6 bushels. *Oats.*—Potatoe do. early Angus, common, and lately introduced, and much esteemed Hopetoun do. Quantity of seed per acre from 6 to 8 bushels. *Potatoes.*—The Devonshire red, and the Perthshire red, the most popular in the London market. There were fewer failures in the crop of Devonshire red, in this neighbourhood, than of any other variety. A few blue Dons are planted, more of Glasgow buffs, and almost no white species. When raised, they are for home consumption. Quantity used for seed per acre, from 3 to 4 bolls. *Turnips.*—For early use, white globe and red, for standing during the winter and spring, green top yellow, Aberdeenshire yellow, hybrid, and a few Swedes. Quantity used for seed per acre, 2 to  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. *Grass.*—Annual and perennial rye-grass, 1 to 2 bushels per acre; red clover from 10 to 12 lbs. per do. Some farmers sow along with it 2 lbs. of white. When laid down for pasture 4 lbs. of red, with 5 to 6 lbs. of white clover.

*Live-Stock.*—The breeds of sheep which are raised, or bought in to feed, are the Leicester, Cheviot, and Highland kinds. There are about 1000 of the above varieties annually fed for the butcher upon turnips. The breed of cattle is the original Fife one, or as



near it, as can now be obtained. Some years ago, the Teeswater, or short-horned breed, was introduced, and some very fine cattle were raised from it. They were profitable to the breeder, from his being able to sell them fat, a year sooner, than the Fife and Angus kinds. But they are too fine, and delicate for our climate, and pasture. They have a tendency to degenerate, unless they are kept up at a great expense, or the breed renewed from warmer and richer soils. The original breed of the county, if equally attended to, although kept to a greater age, affords a richer article to the butcher, and is nearly, if not altogether, as profitable to the farmer. A cross betwixt the Teeswater and the Fife breed is generally considered an advantageous one. The stock thus raised, if placed in favourable circumstances, acquire a greater weight than the pure Fife breed, and, although more delicate, are sooner ready for the market. There are about 200 cattle of various kinds raised in the parish annually, and the most of them are sold fat, about three years of age. There are few horses raised for the market. Those bred for agricultural purposes are strong and handsome.

*Rotation of Crops.*—On the best soils the following five shift is common : 1. Fallow or green crop ; 2. wheat ; 3. barley sown down with grass seeds ; 4. grass cut, or pastured ; 5. oats. This is a severe rotation, and has a tendency in the course of years to wear out the best of land. It can be justified only from the want of enclosures, which prevents the farmer from adopting, as he would wish to do, the stock husbandry. This is gradually giving way to the six shift, which, in every agricultural point of view, is superior to it, although at first less profitable. 1. Fallow, or green crop ; 2. wheat ; 3. pease or beans, or turnips manured with bones, and eaten off with sheep ; 4. barley with grass seeds ; 5. grass cut, or pastured ; 6. oats. This rotation would be much improved, by allowing the land to lie in pasture for two or three years after barley, and would be unquestionably so, if the farms were properly enclosed. There is little land in the parish which cannot bear this last course. Where it does exist, barley is substituted for wheat ; then, white and green crops alternately, and pasture for several years.

Great improvements have been made within the last forty years, in ploughing and draining ; and they are still proceeding. Furrow draining, which promises such happy results, has been introduced, and will in a short time be carried to a great extent. The subsoil

plough has also been set to work. These united will improve the wet and retentive lands. They will free them from extra moisture, give them depth of soil, and prepare them for the reception of lime and manure. Another great improvement which has been introduced within the last few years is the application of bones for fertilizing the soil. This manure is admirably adapted for high dry fields.

The leases extend to the period of nineteen years, and the nature and conditions of them are generally considered fair for proprietor and tenant,—perhaps an extension of them to twenty-four years would be still more advantageous to both parties. The farm houses and steadings are, in a majority of cases, good, and, by the liberality of the proprietors, are improving every year.

Rathillet mill presents an obstacle for improving one part of the parish. Its dam-dike prevents a proper level from being carried through the low lands of West Rathillet, and Mountquhanie, and Stair. The fields lying along this part of the Motray, which from their situation, should be the most productive in the parish, are almost always damp, and do not bear the crops of which they are capable. They are also exposed to be occasionally flooded. Were this obstacle removed, and the lands properly drained, the difference betwixt the crops, which are now, and which would be raised upon these fields, would amply remunerate the heritors interested, in a very few years. All such obstacles are removed in the eastern part of the parish, and the consequence is, that the banks of the Motray, which were once marshy and of little value, are now dry, and produce excellent crops of grain and the best of pasture. What are called the Greens and the Haughs of Kilmanny, were also occasionally overflowed with water. This was corrected some years ago, by giving the Motray a new and a wider course, betwixt the mill and the church of Kilmanny.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish, in as far as it can be ascertained, is as follows:

Produce of all kinds of grain cultivated for food of man or the domestic animals,	13,800
of potatoes turnips, &c. cultivated in the fields for food,	3,800
of hay almost all cultivated,	1400
of land in pasture rating it at L. 3 per cow or full-grown ox, grazed, or that may be grazed for the season, at 12s. per ewe,	1200
or full grown sheep pastured or may be pastured for the year,	40
of annual thinning and periodical felling of woods, plantations, &c.	

Total yearly value of raw produce raised, L. 20,240

*Farms, and the nature of their soil and capabilities.*—East Kin-



near has various soils. In the lower parts, it is sandy, with some moss along the banks of Motray. The higher fields are not composed of a deep but of a sharp light soil. The best lands of Kinnear are not so strong as to resist extreme drought. It suffered much from this cause in 1826. It is naturally adapted for sheep, and cattle, more than a continued rotation of culmiferous and leguminous crops. It has been most judiciously and completely divided into parks, and enclosed with substantial whinstone dikes. This improvement has added greatly to the produce of the farm. By the assistance of these parks, and by grazing, excellent crops have been lately raised upon inferior land; and first-rate cattle and sheep have been brought to the market.

The next farm to the west is Little Kinnear, the property of Henry Wedderburn, Esq. of Birkhill. It is a small one, but valuable from its soil, its climate, and situation. It requires only to be enclosed, to become a first-rate farm for its size. The upper land, although thin, lies upon a whinstone bottom. To the west of Little Kinnear, lies the estate of Kilmany, belonging to John A. Thomson, Esq. of Charleton. It is divided into three farms;—East and West Kilmany;—and Muir Craig, on the top of the hill, which separates Kilmany from Balmerino and the Tay. The two first farms have always been considered excellent ones, and capable of raising all kinds of crops. They are more adapted for wheat, than either of the Kinnears. Their soil is various. Upon the Motray it is a deep rich loam. In wet seasons, this part of it raises great quantities of straw; but the quantity and the quality of the grain do not correspond with the bulk of fodder. This was particularly the case in 1817; but in drier seasons it produces heavy crops of straw and corn. Another part of it is a fine sharp soil lying on trap, which yields an excellent boll, for the quantity of fodder, which is in some seasons deficient. There is another part of it, moorish, and of little value to the farmer. This is the tract of land lying betwixt the manse and glebe, and the east march of Rathillet. This part of the property, by the subsoil plough, furrow draining, and, above all things, by enclosures, may be much improved, and, in the course of time, may become, if not fertile, at least a convenient piece of ground to the tenant. The Muir Craigs is a hill farm, and, as its name denotes, there is in it a considerable quantity of indifferent land; but of late years, it has been much improved, and is in the way of being still better

cultivated. The value of the whole of this estate would be much enhanced, if it was as completely inclosed as East Kinnear.

To the west of Kilmany is the estate of Rathillet, which was long in the possession of the Halkerstones; but, for the last sixty years, has been the property of the grandfather, and father of the present laird, David Carswell, Esq. It is one of the largest, and, upon the whole, one of the best farms in the parish. It was well enclosed by a Mr Sweet, who purchased it from Mr Halkerston, with hedge-rows interspersed with ash trees, and in this respect it took the lead, in substantial improvements, of the rest of the parish, by nearly half a century. The soil, generally speaking, is not so well adapted for wheat as Kilmany, and of the other farms which are still to be mentioned; but for barley, and for raising cattle, it has few equals in this or in the neighbouring districts. To the north of Rathillet, is Newbigging, part of the property of Mrs Robertson of Ballendean; it contains some good and some indifferent land.

The estate of Mountquhanie, belonging to David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, originally containing the farms of Stirton, Mountquhanie, and Drumnod, lies to the north-west of Rathillet. Of these, the soil of Stirton is the poorest. It is thin cold land, with a retentive subsoil. It is not enclosed. Little, for many years, was done upon this farm. The proprietor took it into his own hands some years ago. He drove lime to it, and in some degree drained it. With these improvements, it was lately let to an active tenant, who will employ skill and capital to increase its productive powers. Mountquhanie and Drumnod contain excellent sharp land, (a part of it upon whinstone bottom,) and are highly cultivated.

To the south of Mountquhanie, are the farms of Starr and of the Cairnies, Murdoch and New Cairnie. These by purchase were added to the Mountquhanie estate by the late Mr Gillespie. They contain some of the best land in the parish. They are fit to raise every species of crop, and equally adapted for the feeding of cattle. To the west of Murdoch Cairnie is the estate of Newington, belonging to Henry Inglis, Esq. Only part of Mr Inglis' property is in Kilmany; the rest of it, is in the adjoining parish of Moonzie. It originally formed part of the Cairnie estate, and is distinguished for a rich deep soil. Lochmalonie, the estate of James Horsburgh, Esq. lies to the south of Rathillet, and is bounded by it on the north and west. The soil of Lochmalonie is various. About the mansion-house, and farm-steading, it is excellent. The higher grounds to the south, are of inferior quality. It is cold with a re-



tentive subsoil. This part of the property was much improved, by its late amiable, judicious, and justly esteemed proprietor, Major Horsburgh. He trenched a considerable part of it; and one field, where he was disappointed of the beneficial effects which he expected, he covered with clay, which he found under the surface, which succeeded far beyond his most sanguine hopes.

The only other estates within the parish, and which form its south-west boundary, are Hill Cairnie, the property of Robert Russell, Esq. and Myre Cairnie, belonging to Captain Pearson, R. N. Both of these farms are cultivated by Mr Russell. They contain some very strong land. Hill Cairnie is known in the neighbourhood for its deep red clay. It has also a considerable extent of meadow ground, which is composed of sand, moss, and marl. This is all drained, and contributes liberally to the barn-yard, or to the feeding byres. Both these farms lie near the town of Cupar, and from it receive a great quantity of dung, in addition to what is produced upon themselves. They are thus highly cultivated and fertile.

From these observations, it is evident that Kilmany is a most productive parish. From the well known excellence of its soil, from the greater part of it being completely watered by the Motray, and its other small streams, from the excellence of the roads which run through it, and from its nearness to good markets,—the farms which compose it, have been long in great request by the agriculturist. There are many offerers of skill, and of capital, for every farm which comes into the market. On this account all the farms are rented at their full value, and some of them above it. If times were becoming worse than they now are, the rent promised for them could not be paid, without entrenching upon the capital of the tenants. Such a state of things would be deeply to be deplored, not more for the sake of this industrious, and in every way respectable class of men, than for the agricultural prosperity and the general good of the country.

The valued rent of Kilmany is L. 5327, 9s. 9d. Scots money; real rent from L. 8000 to L. 9000 Sterling.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town—Means of Communication.*—What is called the village of Kilmany consists of the cottars' houses of the two farms of the same name, with those of the wright, smith, shoemaker, weaver, and beadle; and of a few more families. The market-town is Cupar, which is distant from the centre of the parish betwixt four

and five miles. Although the roads are excellent, it enjoys few means of communication with the neighbouring towns and villages. There is no post nearer than Cupar or Newport, which is found in many cases to be very inconvenient, and no carrier passes this way to Dundee and Cupar. A great part of the necessities of life must be sent for, to one or other of these places, which entails upon the inhabitants additional labour and expense. The parish is abundantly supplied with excellent bread, three or four times a-week, by carts from Cupar, Newport, and Leuchars. The length of the turnpike-road running through the valley is six miles. Originally there was a considerable deal of posting upon it, from Newport to Edinburgh, as this is the best and nearest line of road betwixt these places. But all the public coaches go round by Cupar, and since the starting of these conveyances, few post-chaises are seen in this district. There are eleven small bridges in the parish, eight of them are over the Motray, and all of them in good order.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated upon the beautiful rising ground, upon which the small village is placed. It commands a fine view of the surrounding country. The Motray runs below it, and washes the bank upon which it is built. It is not particularly well situated for the accommodation of the parish; as the most extensive and populous parts of it lie at a considerable distance from the church. This cannot now be avoided. As the parish is not extensive, the people in good weather can easily attend divine worship, from its most distant points. If they are unwilling to come so far, there are other churches connected with the Establishment nearer them, to which they can easily go. The greatest distance from the parish church, is about four and a-half miles. It was built in 1768. It is of the plainest construction. The original expense of it, was under L. 150. From some repairs which it lately received, it is far from being uncomfortable. It can accommodate from 300 to 340 individuals. As the parish has diminished in population since it was erected, it is more than sufficiently large for the congregation. The greatest part of the area is divided amongst the different heritors, and is occupied by them, or by their tenants and servants; but the communion tables and the east gallery are free sittings, as nothing has been charged for them for many years. These were erected originally at the expense of the kirk-session, and were let out for the benefit of the poor.



The manse was built for Dr Chalmers in 1810. By his advice, the site of it was removed from the village to its present situation on the glebe. It is now about 400 paces to the west of the church. This change for many reasons was a desirable one. The old site with the garden, and small park below the church, do not now belong to the minister. They were exchanged in 1820, for land lying contiguous to the principal part of the glebe. The manse now stands by itself, in a fine park of ten acres, with an excellent approach to it, which the late site completely wanted. The manse and offices are in good repair, and are in every way suitable to the accommodation of the minister. The garden is surrounded with an excellent wall, five and a half feet high to the south, nine and a half to the east, north, and west ; it was built in 1820. The heritors allowed for this purpose L. 45 ; the present incumbent, for his own conveniency, gave an additional L. 10. It is now well stocked with fruit trees, although the soil is not very favourable for their growth ; and with an abundance of gooseberry, and currant bushes. The ground about the manse was laid out with great taste by Dr Chalmers. It remains very much in the state in which he left it. The glebe consists of nearly 10 acres Scotch measure, and is enclosed with a beech and thorn hedge. The soil is unequal ; but a great part of it is good and sharp ; and, under proper management, is productive. It would let over head at L. 3. to L. 3, 10s. per acre. The stipend during the greatest part of Dr Chalmers' incumbency, and of mine, was, wheat, 8 bolls ; barley, 92 bolls, 1 firloft 1 peck,  $0\frac{3}{4}$  lippies ; oatmeal, 48 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck,  $0\frac{3}{4}$  lippies ; oats, 40 bolls, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. of communion elements. In 1832 the stipend was augmented by the Court of Teinds, as follows : wheat, 8 bolls ; barley, 116 bolls ; oatmeal 116, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. as communion elements. The whole teinds of the parish, except what the minister receives as stipend, belong to the United College of St Andrews ; and every augmentation which is granted is taken from the revenues of that most respectable body. This is a state of things which is in every way to be regretted, and the college has unquestionably a just claim upon Government, for the loss which by various augmentations, they have sustained. The Principal and Professors of the said college are patrons of the parish.

There has been a dissenting chapel in the parish since 1762. The clergyman, I believe, is paid by the collections, and the seat-rents ; his salary is about L. 100. He has, in addition, a good

house, and an excellent garden. As the congregation is composed of the Dissenters of various parishes in the neighbourhood, I do not know the number which attends this chapel. The number of heads of families attending the Established Church is about 80; of communicants, 266 to 275.

*Education.*—There are three schools in the parish; the parochial one, at Rathillet, the centre of the parish; and two private ones, taught by females, at Hazleton of Mountquhanie, and at Kilmally. The two last are supported by the liberality of Mrs Gillespie of Kirkton, and Mrs Thomson of Charleton. Each teacher has a house, school-room, and garden, and L. 10 of salary; the rest of their living is composed of school-fees, which may amount to betwixt L. 5 and L. 10 per annum. These schools have been of great use in teaching the younger children, who are not able to go so far as the parish school; and still more so, for giving to the girls in the parish and neighbourhood a knowledge of knitting, needle-work, and other branches of female education. In the parochial school, the ordinary branches of education are at present most ably taught by Mr William M'Gillivray. In addition to these, if required, he is prepared to teach practical mathematics, geography, and Latin. The fees are fixed by the heritors and minister, as follows: for English reading, 2s. per quarter; do. with writing per quarter, 2s. 6d; these, with arithmetic, 3s. 6d. per quarter; these, with English grammar and geography, 5s. per quarter; without geography, 4s.: and for the whole, with Latin, 10s. per quarter. The school-master, like most of his brethren in country parishes, receives only three quarters per annum. He is at present ill accommodated, having only the legal allowance of two rooms; and these are small and low in the ceiling; but I have no doubt that this will be corrected by the liberality of the heritors, when a new school-room is built. He has an excellent garden; and as session and heritor's clerk, he has a salary of L. 3, 10s., the emoluments of which office, from marriages, births, and funerals may be, on an average, L. 2 more per annum. His school-fees may amount to L. 18 or L. 20 per annum. All the children are sent to school, and there is almost no person who cannot read; and a great part of the lower classes, can also write and keep accounts. From the central situation of the school, all the children in the parish can attend it, who have reached the age of seven years. There is no need of additional schools.



*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor of this parish are few in number, and are supported at a very trifling expense. There still exists amongst them that noble spirit, which spurns at public assistance, when, by their own exertions and economy, they can provide for themselves. We have, at present, cases amongst us where individuals have reached the utmost verge of human life ; with means bordering upon poverty, and by many, would be considered actually so, resolutely refusing the scanty supply which is given to those who are upon the kirk-session roll. The number who were assisted by the kirk-session last year were 14, of whom five only were regularly on the roll ; the rest got occasional assistance. The whole sum given to the above poor, from January 1837 to January 1838, was L. 23, 11s. 5d. In addition to this, 15s. 6d. was given to a medical gentleman for advice ; and perhaps L. 3 are still due to the schoolmaster, for poor scholars. In addition to this sum, David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, gave me liberty last year, to give coals to every person in the parish, who I thought stood in need of them ; and I was particularly requested by him, not to diminish the ordinary supply afforded to the poor, in consequence of his donation. Several families, who were in distress from accidental circumstances, were thus supplied with coals, who never received a farthing from the kirk-session. Call the average, L. 30 ; and this sum cannot be said to be extravagant, upon a rental of L. 8000 to L. 9000 per annum, although the heritors paid every farthing of it. But this they do not. *1st*, The kirk-session has an heritable bond belonging to it of L. 200 ; the interest of which, although now reduced, goes for the support of the poor, and the other expenses of the kirk-session, which amount annually to L. 8, 7s. ; *2d*, collections at the church doors, which amount to about L. 14 ; *3d*, dues upon mortcloths, which may average from L. 2 to L. 2, 5s. : and dues upon marriages, which come to very little money ; *4th*, interest of a legacy of L. 45 left by the late David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, for the benefit of the poor ; and *5th*, interest of the remains of a legacy of L. 34, 2s. 10d. left by the late John A. Thomson, Esq. of Charleton, to be expended upon clothing to needy and respectable individuals. Although the kirk-session had no other expenses, the funds are not sufficient of themselves to supply the poor, few as they are, and to pay the salaries above stated. In addition to these, there are school-fees for the children of people in distress, and there are accidental expenses, which, taken together, may amount annually from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4, 10s. To

make up any such deficiency, the heritors were accustomed to assess themselves voluntarily, according to their valued rents. All that was required of them was a sum of L. 30 to L. 35 every alternate year. They thus kept the capital of the kirk-session entire, and ready to be advanced upon any emergency. But on a late occasion, a majority of heritors agreed not to contribute as they had hitherto done, until the legacy left to the kirk-session by Mr Gillespie was expended. The tendency of such proceeding, if carried farther, is to bring on a legal assessment, which will destroy here, as elsewhere, that independent and noble spirit, which spurns at parochial relief. The present incumbent, at least, has done all in his power to prevent this state of things.

*Inns.*—There is now only one public-house in the parish.

*Fuel.*—The principal article used for fuel is coal. There is no pit of this valuable mineral nearer than twelve miles. By land carriage, it is brought from Teasses in Ceres parish, from Drumcarro in Cameron, from Kilmux, and from Orr's Bridge. It is imported in considerable quantities into Balmerino, from various places on the Forth, and from Newcastle. On the hill, a double cart containing six loads, costs from 7s. 6d. to 9s. 6d.; carriage of ditto. with tolls 8s. 10d. At Balmerino, English coal costs about 15s. to 17s., Scotch coal from 12s. 6d. to 17s., carriage 4s. for a double cart. In winter the price is even higher at Balmerino than what is stated.

*June 1838.*



## PARISH OF CULTS.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. THOMAS J. CRAWFORD, A. M. MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Situation, Boundaries, and Extent.*—THIS parish is situated in the heart of the county of Fife. In form, it is nearly oblong, and in superficial extent about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  square miles, being  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles long from north to south, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  broad from east to west. It is bounded on the west, by the parishes of Kettle and Collessie; on the north, by Collessie, Monimail, and Cupar; on the east, by Ceres; and on the south by Ceres and Kettle.

*Name.*—The ancient name of this parish was *Quilts* or *Quilques*. This word is alleged, in the former Statistical Account, to be of Celtic origin, signifying a “*nook*” or “*corner*,” and is supposed to be descriptive of the situation of the parish, which *recedes* towards the south-east from the large strath or valley of the Eden.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There is nothing very remarkable to be noted under this head. The surface is flat or slightly declining towards the north, but hilly towards the south and east. The eastern district is richly wooded,—the western somewhat bare and uninteresting. Of the hills may be mentioned the Walton hill, which rises at the south-east extremity of the parish,—and the Pitlessie or Cults’ lime hills, which adjoin it on the south. On these, there are many points from which the fine scenery of the neighbourhood, the beautiful valley of Stratheden, and “mine own blue Lomonds,” (as Sir D. Wilkie, in a letter to a former clergymen of Cults, enthusiastically calls them,) may be seen to the greatest advantage.

*Soil.*—There is great variety in the quality of the soil. From the northern boundary to the high road, the soil is a light brownish sand, arid and unproductive, apt to be overrun, if left long

under grass, with bent, broom and furze. Farther southwards to the ascent of the lime hills, a soft black loam prevails, varying from 10 to 20 inches in depth. On the sides and tops of the hills, there is a strong clay, of excellent quality, capable of producing the finest crops.

*Climate.*—The climate is dry, mild, and salubrious. There are no peculiar diseases incident to the locality. Agues, which were prevalent sixty years ago, have now, owing to the improved cultivation of the country, entirely disappeared, and fevers have of late years been neither so frequent nor so severe as in some of the surrounding parishes. The highest winds are from the south-west; the greatest storms of rain and snow from the east.

*Hydrography.*—The river Eden divides part of this parish from that of Collessie on the north, and traverses the other part. The breadth of the river is about thirty-four feet. Its bed is level, its course winding, and its current consequently slow and noiseless. From the western to the eastern extremity of the parish, it has a fall of about thirteen feet. It drives six mills, and in these is made available in the summer season to the extent of not less than twenty horse power. The Eden is joined by the Ballomill burn, which, flowing southwards, divides Cults from Collessie on the west. This stream, though only about fifteen feet in width, is, during the summer months, of nearly equal power with the Eden itself. Besides these, there are various streamlets of inconsiderable size. One of them drives two thrashing-mills.

*Geology.*—The parish of Cults presents a very interesting field of observation to the geologist. Its geognostic appearances are, for the most part, connected with the carboniferous or great independent coal formation. The rocks consist of sandstone, limestone, shale, coal, and trap, and constitute the northern outcrop of the coal metals. We shall begin our brief description with the lowest of the sedimentary deposits, and consider the others in their relative order of superposition,—a method which will conduct us gradually from the northern to the southern extremity of the parish.

The rock which prevails throughout the lower district is a *yellow sandstone*, sections of which may be observed along the banks of the Eden, and at the quarries of Hospital Mill and Bogle Hill. It may likewise be observed cropping out on the Walton Hill, a little to the east of the burying-place of the Crawford family, and



reaching an elevation of about 200 feet above the level of the valley. The deposit may therefore be considered as of enormous thickness. Some of its beds assume a brecciated or conglomerated aspect, containing nodules of quartz, and rounded portions of the primitive rocks; also innumerable quantities of clay nodules, which are soft, unctuous, of a bluish yellow colour, and generally of a globular or semispherical form. In this portion of the deposit, the scales, teeth, and bones of fossil fish are abundant. Some of the scales found at Hospital Mill quarry, measure nearly three inches in length and two inches in breadth. These interesting relics all belong, according to Dr Anderson (Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, January 1838,) to the *Gyrolepis giganteus* of M. Agassiz; And the discovery of them in this deposit has led him to regard it as belonging to the old red sandstone formation, of which it constitutes the upper member. It is undoubtedly a continuation of the Dura Den, Drumdryan, Wemyss' Hall, and Cupar Muir sandstones, in which several new genera of fossil fishes, as well as insects, have been discovered and described by Dr Anderson in the paper referred to. The direction of this deposit is to the south-east, its dip is at an angle which varies from  $7^{\circ}$  to  $12^{\circ}$ , and its range is westerly.

The mountain limestone is the next rock which occurs in the order of superposition. This rock crops out at a considerable elevation above the valley, and like the former ranges in a westerly direction, dipping towards the south-east at an angle of about  $10^{\circ}$ . It may, therefore, although the junction of the two cannot be observed, be considered as lying perfectly conformable with the yellow sandstone. The main bed is about 14 feet thick, very hard and crystalline in its texture, and of a dark bluish colour. It extends about a mile and a half in length, in the course of which several dislocations occur, which are termed *rums* by the workmen. These portions of the rock differ considerably from the rest, and almost approach the character of a conglomerate, which, along with the arch-like appearance of the *rums*, clearly indicates the nature of the cause by which they have been occasioned, as well as the close proximity of the trap beneath. Besides this main bed of limestone, there are other three, one of which is two, another eight, and the third six feet in thickness. The organic remains in this deposit are encrinurites of several species, *orthocerates*, *terebratulæ*, *productæ*, *spiriferæ*, *corallines*, *madrepores*, and small microscopic shells. It yields

about 90 per cent. of carbonate of lime, and is much esteemed both for agricultural and architectural purposes.

Several alternating beds of coal, shale, and sandstone repose upon the limestone strata. One of the beds of coal is twelve inches thick, and may be considered as the lowest of the whole series, of which the coal-field in the county is composed. From the quarry it may be traced westwards to Front-brae, where it may be seen cropping out along the road which leads to Coal-town. Here the whole series have been thrown down several hundred feet, underlying the Burnturk coal metals, and again emerging at Forthar limework in the parish of Kettle. The other beds of coal vary from a few inches to about a foot in thickness, and are not considered of sufficient value to be wrought.

One of the beds of shale which overlies the main lime bed is composed almost entirely of shells of the genus *Mytilus*, the prevailing species being the *M. Crassus*. These shells appear as fresh and entire as if they were still reposing on the muddy bed of the primitive ocean, in which they were produced. Not only are the external figure and internal texture preserved, but even the colour and original shelly matter seem to have sustained but little alteration. One cannot look on these interesting relics without a feeling of admiration of the wonderful methods devised by Providence, for preserving so entire bodies of so fragile a kind, and out of their remains once deposited on the bottom of the sea, forming the rocks and soil, which now minister to the wants and comforts of man.

Of the sandstones reposing on the lime beds, the thickest, which is about 16 feet, abounds in organic remains. These, however, are wholly vegetable, being the stems and branches of *arundinaceous* plants. Not a trace of animal matter can be detected in any part of this deposit, while in the inferior bed of sandstone before noticed, the organic remains are exclusively animal; a fact, we believe, first observed by Dr Anderson, and serving as the basis of his proposed arrangement of the different sandstones found in Stratheden. The whole of these alternating beds of coal, shale, sandstone and mountain limestone, have been elevated to the height of about 600 feet above the level of the sea, and now constitute what are called the Cults or Pitlessie Hills, being apparently a continuation of the Lomond range.

The whole series of rocks in this parish are capped with masses of overlying trap, consisting partly of *amygdaloid*, and partly of



greenstone. This rock has obviously burst through the stratified deposits, and towards it, as a central nucleus, they all incline.

*Botany.*—I have been favoured by a proprietor in the neighbourhood\* with a very complete view of the botany of the parish of Cults. A brief account of the more notable plants, which have been observed by him, is all that can be here given.

The *Chara vulgaris* grows in one of the rills on the farm of Priestfield; the *Agrostis alba*, var. *stolonifera*, abounds on the lime-hills,—as also the *Briza media* and *Avena flavescens*; and the *Aira aquatica* in Pitrachnie den. The *Scabiosa arvensis*, the smooth variety, a plant which, Sir James Smith says, has not yet been found in England, grows in Cults. The *Galium cinereum* grows close to the mill-dam opposite the Priory garden. The *Potamogeton pusillum*, which does not seem to be found near Edinburgh, grows abundantly in the old bed of the Eden near Pitlessie Bridge. The white-flowered *Campanula rotundifolia* has been found in several places. The *Viola lutea* is common on the hills. The *Solunum dulcamara*, supposed by Hooker to be rare in Scotland, grows in many places on the banks of the Eden; while *Cicuta virosa*, the most virulent of our poisons, has been found near Cult mill. The *Triglochin palustre* grows on the lime-hills, and the white-flowering *Epilobium montanum* in the woods near Crawford Priory. The *Sedum Telephium* grows freely on the banks of the Eden, and the *S. villosum* is not uncommon in marshy places on the hills. The *Cerastium aquaticum* grows near Pitlessie mill. The *Agrimonia Eupatoria*, a plant much used in making British teas, is found in Pitrachnie den; and the *Prunus spinosa* grows in considerable quantities among the rocks. As might be expected, there is a great variety of the genus *Rosa*: *R. spinosissima* and *tomentosa* are very common; *R. scabriuscula* abounds on the whole range of hills on the south of Stratheden; the *R. rubiginosa* is not uncommon; the *R. arvensis* is frequently to be met with, as also the *R. canina*, now so much recommended for rose stocks. The *Geum rivale* and the *Comarum palustre* are to be found in the rills and marshes. The *Papaver Rhæas*, so common on the coast, but rare in the interior of Fife, grows near Cult mill; and the *Nuphar lutea* near Pitlessie Bridge. *Ranunculus sceleratus*, and *R. hirsutus*, var.  $\beta$ , are found on the banks of the river Eden, while a beautiful variety of the *R. acris* with a single flower abounds

\* James Heriot, Esq. of Ramornie.

in Pitrachnie den. The *Caltha radicans* is by no means uncommon on the hills. The *Galeopsis Ladanum*, var.  $\beta$ , *Smith*, which he had never seen, is found; and also the beautiful *G. versicolor*, called bee-nettle, from a resemblance to that insect. (The day-nettle, by which the reapers are so severely stung, is the *Galeopsis*, including more than one species of it, and not the dead-nettle, or *Lamium*, as stated by Dr Jamieson in his Scottish Dictionary. The severity of the wound is caused by a poisonous liquid contained in the plant.) The dark variety of *Euphrasia officinalis* is found on Hospital Mill farm. The *Thlaspi arvense* grows in the southern part of the parish, on the farm of Skelpie; the *Cardamine hirsuta* on the banks of the Eden; the *Nasturtium officinale* in the ditches; and the *Barbarea officinalis* near Pitlessie. The *Sinapis alba* occurs occasionally; the other two sorts are very common. The beautiful *Geranium pratense* is found in several places, as also the *G. dissectum*. The *Malva moschata*, not uncommon in the county, grows near Crawford Priory. The *Spartium scoparium* and *Ulex europeus*, from the extent of ground they occupy, (there having been till very recently a fox cover of seventy acres on the farm of Skelpie) would lead one to doubt the truth of the statement, that they are of foreign origin, and were introduced by the Scottish kings, who had their hunting seat at the neighbouring palace of Falkland. The *Anthyllis vulneraria* grows on the hills, as also the *Orobis tuberosus*, the roots of which have been recommended as a substitute for coffee. The beautiful *Ornithopus perpusillus* has been found near Clushford bridge; the *Lotus major* near the lime-hills; *Hypericum quadrangulum* and *H. pulchrum*, the latter very common in the marshes, as also the *Leontodon palustre*. The parish is rich in the genus *Hieracium*; the *H. murorum* is found in the rocks and walls, the *H. sylvaticum* in the woods, and the *H. palustre* on the lime hills. *Cichorium Intybus* is found occasionally. The *Cnicus eriophorus* is found near Crawford Priory garden, and in other places. The *Gnaphalium dioicum* is by no means uncommon. The *Inula Helenium* grows near the farm of Bunzeon. The *Centaurea scabiosa*, not uncommon in the east of Fife, does not seem to have reached farther west than the eastern part of the lime-hills. The *Orchis bifolia* and *O. mascula* are not rare on the hills. Pitlessie Mill dam affords the *Sparganium simplex* with leaves from 6 to 8 feet long, very different in appearance from the diminutive plant of the same species of 1 or 2 inches,



growing on the borders of Lindores Loch. The *Alnus glutinosa* grows wild on the banks of the Eden. The *Betula alba*, var.  $\beta$ , or weeping birch, is found apparently wild near Bunzeon. There are many sorts of willows in the parish, but the only sorts probably that are in a wild state are the beautiful species, *Salix pentandra*, *S. malifolia*, *S. repens*, *S. aquatica*, and *S. caprea*. There are many fine trees of *S. alba*, and some good specimens of other kinds. There are no uncommon ferns; the *Aspidium Oreopteris*, and *A. Filix femina* are found; also *Asplenium Trichomanes*, and *Blechnum boreale*; *Ophioglossum vulgatum*; this rare plant is found near the lime quarries; *Equisetum arvense* and *E. palustre* are found in the marshy grounds.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Early Notices of the Parish*—These are very scanty. In the taxed roll of the Archbishoprick of St Andrews, drawn up in the year 1547, Cults is included under the title of *Rectoria de Qwilts*. (See Martin's *Reliquiae Divi Andreae*). A still more early notice of it is found in the charters of the College of St Salvador, in the University of St Andrews. In the first foundation charter of that College, dated 1455, there is contained a disposition and mortification for its behoof, by Bishop James Kennedy, of the teinds of the parishes of Qwilts, Kemback, Dunninow, Forteviot, and Kilmany, together with some chaplainries, all formerly belonging to the see.—In the second foundation charter of St Salvador's, dated at the Castle of St Andrews, 5th April 1458, it is ordained that the College shall consist of a Doctor in Theology, who was to be Provost or Principal, a Licentiate of Theology, a Bachelor in Theology, four Masters of Arts, and six poor scholars to be taught the speculative sciences. The Doctor in Theology being Principal, has by this charter the rectory of *Qwilts* assigned to him as his endowment,—the Licentiate, or second master has the rectory of Kemback, and the Bachelor, or third master, the rectory of Denino,—the teinds of the other benefices being assigned to the Masters of Arts and poor scholars. Prior to the Reformation, the Principal of St Salvador's continued to be *ex officio* rector of Cults, serving the cure by a Vicar or Curate. On the establishment of the Reformed Church of Scotland, the surplus or unappropriated teinds of the parish were still allotted to him as *Titular*. And in this capacity, the principal of the then United Colleges of St Salvador and St Leonard opposed the augmentation of stipend sued for by the ministers of Cults, and granted to him in 1756. The pa-

tronage of Cults and of the other parishes above-mentioned is still vested in the Professors of the United College.

*Antiquities.*—"The Walton-hill," says Mr Wilkie in the former Statistical Account, "has many *fossæ* and ramparts cut along its side, which are supposed to be the remains of a Roman camp, pitched by Agricola, who, when invading Scotland, encamped one part of his army here, and the other at Newtyle in Angus." The truth of this supposition is very doubtful. The Romans usually encamped in the *plain*, not like the Danes and Britons on the hill or hill-side. Mr Wilkie adds, "that many urns and bones have been dug up on and near this hill." Of what description these urns were he omits to mention. Probably they were of the same kind with those Celtic urns of rudely moulded earthenware, which have been, at a more recent period, found in great numbers, on the adjoining lands of Edenwood, in the parish of Ceres. Urns exactly similar to these last have been discovered near Maiden Castle, in Collessie, and are described in the New Statistical Account of that parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—These parish records commence in the year 1693, and are continued downwards with little interruption to the present day. Prior to 1748, however, the entries are made in a very confused and slovenly manner,—the notices of births, marriages, and deaths being huddled together with the minutes of the kirk-session, and the accounts of the collections and disbursements for the poor. The older minutes of the Session exhibit some curious traits of the characters and manners of the times to which they refer. From the account of the collections, it appears that these were sometimes made in former times, not only for the maintenance of the poor, and for missionary purposes, but for the repairing of roads, bridges, and harbours. And it more than once occurs that the recusant members of the congregation, who fail to give their mite to these occasional contributions, have their names reported to a subsequent meeting of the kirk-session and recorded in the minute.

*Eminent Men.*—This parish has the honour of being the birth-place of Sir David Wilkie, the celebrated painter, who was born in the manse on the 18th of November 1785. His father, the Rev. David Wilkie, for thirty-eight years minister of Cults, was of a respectable family in Mid-Lothian, and was nephew to the famous Dr Wilkie, Professor of Logic in the University of St Andrews, and author of the "*Epigoniad*." His mother, Miss Isa-



bel Lister, was the daughter of Mr James Lister, a most respectable elder in the parish, and a man of singular sagacity and natural talents. The young painter shewed at an early period of life a strong predilection for that art, in which he has now acquired so high and so well merited celebrity. Even the taunts of his brothers and companions did not deter him from embracing every opportunity, when yet on the very verge of infancy, of exhibiting his natural tastes and prepossessions. And all the aversion, at first shewn by both his father and grandfather, to his following, what they conceived to be an idle and unprofitable pursuit, only served to verify the adage of Horace, "*Naturam expelles furcâ, tamen usque recurret.*" His father's successor in the ministry has informed me, that when he first came to Cults, he found the walls of the nursery completely covered with eyes, noses, hands, and other parts of the human body, boldly executed, not with crayon, but with the charred end of a stick,—but that subsequently, on his return after a temporary absence, while the manse was undergoing repairs, he was shocked to find these interesting memorials obliterated, by the painter's brush no doubt, but by a very different one from that, which the young Artist was destined afterwards to make use of! Some of Wilkie's earliest performances still exist, in the shape of portraits, which are admirable likenesses, and valued of course very highly by their fortunate possessors. The oldest of his unproductive paintings that I have heard of, is an exquisite representation of a poor family, the father sitting in tattered clothes, smoking a pipe by the fire-side, and his daughter, a buxom girl, bringing water from the well in an earthen vessel. It is now in the possession of a widow lady in St Andrews. In one person's possession, there are, among several others of Wilkie's earlier efforts, two very exquisite likenesses of his brother's children, painted long before he reached the acmé of his fame,—and a domestic scene, his father and mother at family worship, painted in his youth, and not unworthy of being compared with his recent treatment of a kindred subject, "*The Cottar's Saturday Night.*" A report and belief is very general that the "*Saracen's head,*" a sign board in the village of Pitlessie, was painted by Wilkie. This we have reason to know is a mistake. There is, however, in the possession of Robert Methven, Esq. procurator fiscal for the County of Fife, a sign-board representing a boy watering a horse, which was really painted by Wilkie when a mere boy for a small alehouse in the parish of Kettle-

"*Pitlessie Fair*,"\* which was his first regular effort as an artist, is now in the possession of a proprietor in an adjoining parish, Charles Kinnear, Esq. of Kinloch. It is a fine picture, containing upwards of 150 figures graphically delineated and admirably grouped, including portraits of Wilkie himself, his father, brothers and sisters, and of many other characters well known in the parish and neighbourhood, during the painter's earlier years. This picture is by competent judges considered equal in merit to some of the most admired productions of its distinguished artist, although, having never been engraved, it is less generally known.

To mention or characterize any of his more recent performances, would be quite superfluous. These are well known, and have been justly appreciated. As an artist he may be well accounted the boast not merely of a parish, or of a county, or even of a kingdom,—but of the art in general, wherever it is cultivated; while in private life, as is well known, there is no man more justly esteemed for his simple and unaffected manners, and his amiable and friendly disposition.—Sir David Wilkie was appointed by King George IV. Limner to his Majesty for Scotland, and in 1836 he received the honour of knighthood from King William IV.

The Rev. David Wilkie, father of this celebrated artist, merits a special notice in this place, as the author of a valuable "*Treatise on the Theory of Interest and Annuities; with an illustration of the widow's scheme in the Church of Scotland*:" as also Dr Thomas Gillespie, the present learned and able Professor of Humanity in the University of St Andrews, who succeeded Mr Wilkie in the ministry of the parish of Cults, and held that office for fifteen years. Dr Gillespie, besides numerous other literary productions, has published a volume of beautiful sermons on "*The Seasons contemplated in the Spirit of the Gospel*."

*Land-owners and Rental.*—There are three land-owners in this parish, none of them permanently resident, viz. The Right Honourable the Earl of Glasgow, George Heggie, Esq. of Pitlessie, and George Hope, Esq. of Upper Rankeillor and Hospital Mill.

The valued rent of the parish is as follows:

The Earl of Glasgow,	L. 1442	0	0	Scots.
George Heggie, Esq.	-	490	0	0
George Hope, Esq.	-	137	6	8
<hr/>				
Total valued rental,	L. 2069	6	8	

\* In the eighth vol. of Blackwood's Edinburgh Magazine, there is an admirable series of poetical sketches, entitled "*Sketches of Village Character*," the subjects of which were in a great measure furnished from the parish of Cults. No. iv. of these sketches is professedly and accurately descriptive of some of the principal features of Wilkie's "*Pitlessie Fair*."



The real rental of the parish (including feu-duties, and the rent of lime-quarries) may be stated at L. 3000 Sterling.

*Mansion Houses.*—Crawfurd Castle and Priory is the only modern mansion which merits particular notice under this head. It is a magnificent castellated building in the Gothic style of architecture. It was erected in 1812-13, by the late proprietor, Lady Mary Lindsay Crawfurd. The old seat of the Earls of Crawfurd and Lindsay was Struthers House, now in ruins, in the adjacent parish of Ceres. The old mansion house of Bunzeon, on the estate of that name, was formerly the seat of the Bruces of Bunzeon. Since the junction of this property with the Crawfurd estate, it has been converted into a farm-house. Bruce of Bunzeon represented the burgh of Cupar in the Scottish Parliament of 1703, before the Union.

*Monuments.*—There are no ancient monuments of any note in the church-yard of Cults. On the Walton hill, there is the mausoleum of the Crawford family, a handsome Grecian building, erected by the father of the late Earl. And Sir David Wilkie has adorned the interior of the church with a noble piece of sculpture to the memory of his parents. It is executed by Chantrey in the best style of that distinguished sculptor. The medallion likenesses which it presents of Mr and Mrs Wilkie, from portraits by Sir David, are considered very striking.

### III.—POPULATION.

The following is a statement of the population of Cults at various periods downwards since 1751 :

Number of inhabitants according to Session records in the year	1751,	464
Number as returned to Dr Webster in	1755,	449
Number according to last Statistical Account in	1791,	534
Number by Government census in	1801,	699
	1811,	766
	1821,	853
	in 1831, males 435, females 468,	total 903
Number in January 1838,		914
Increase since 1751,		450
since 1791,		380

This progressive increase in the population is to be ascribed to the steadily advancing prosperity of trade and manufactures.

Of the 914 present inhabitants of this parish, 516 reside in the village of Pitlessie, and 398 in the country.

The yearly average for the last seven years of births is	20
marriages,	6.57
deaths.	16.14

Of the 914 inhabitants of this parish there are under 15 years of age,	322
betwixt 15 and 30,	254
30 and 50,	163
50 and 70,	136
upwards of 70,	39

The number of families is at present	204
By census 1831, the number of families is	211
The number of unmarried men, bachelors, or widowers upwards of 50 years of age,	24
unmarried women upwards of 45,	36
inhabited houses, by census 1831,	174

Since that period, there have been ten additional dwelling-houses built, and nearly as many of the former houses converted into loom-shops. There are seven dwelling-houses at present uninhabited or building.

There are three proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards ; one of them, the Earl of Glasgow, is occasionally resident.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—There is nothing remarkable in the character or habits of the people to distinguish them from those of the surrounding district. They are for the most part healthy and vigorous ; and, on the whole, enjoy, in a reasonable measure, the comforts and advantages of society.

Thirty-five years ago, smuggling prevailed to a great extent in the village of Pitlessie. It has since been entirely abandoned.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Employments of Male Adults.*—The Government census of 1831 gives the following return of the occupations of the males upwards of twenty years old :

Number employed in agriculture, as farmers, cottars, and farm-servants,	48
manufatures,	49
retail trade and handicraft,	68
Merchants, professional persons, and other educated men,	4
Labourers employed in mines, roads, &c.	37
By the same census it appears that in 1831 there were	
Families chiefly employed in agriculture,	39
in trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	151
Other families not included in these classes,	21
Male servants upwards of twenty years old,	4
Female servants of all ages,	18

*Agricultural State.*—The number of standard imperial acres in the parish is nearly 2250 ; of which there are,

Under cultivation,	1900
Constantly waste or in pasture, (but all capable of being rendered arable,)	140
Under wood, (Scotch firs, larches, spruces, and hard-wood,)	115
Roads, fences, water, and quarries, about	60
Houses and gardens,	35

There is no part of the land in a state of undivided common.

*Husbandry.*—The system of husbandry adopted varies according to the qualities of the different soils. A rotation of five years is generally observed. The farm-buildings are, with a few exceptions, good and commodious. A great part of the land in this parish stands in much need of draining and enclosures.

*Rent of Land.*—The rent of land varies, according to the qua-



lity of the soil, from 10s. to L. 3, 5s. per imperial acre. The average rent may be stated at L. 1, 5s. The duration of leases is usually nineteen years, and the rents are paid partly in fixed sums of money, and partly according to the fiars' prices of the county.

*Rate of Grazing.*—The average rate of grazing is L. 2, 10s. for an ox or cow, and 7s. for a ewe or full-grown sheep.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle reared or fed in this parish are chiefly of the Fifeshire breed, to the improvement of which the farmers are most attentive. Few sheep are pastured, and these for the most part are of the black-faced and Cheviot breeds.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of a ploughman (all perquisites included) vary from L. 16 to L. 26. Female house-servants receive from L. 4, 10s. to L. 6, 10s. per annum. The wages of male day-labourers are from 8s. to 10s. per week; of female day-labourers from 4s. to 5s. per week. A mason's wages per day are 2s. 3d.; a carpenter's are 2s.

*Lime-Quarries.*—There are extensive lime-quarries in this parish, along the brow of the Pitlessie or Cults hill. The main stratum of limestone, which is 14 feet in thickness, is of a bluish colour, and when burnt affords an abundant supply of white lime of the finest quality. About 13 feet above it, there is another stratum, 2 feet in thickness, of a darker blue colour, which, when burnt, yields a bluish lime. Both of these strata are regularly quarried to a great extent, the open face of the rock being about a mile and a half in length.

Farther down the hill, about 120 yards to the north, another stratum may be observed cropping out in several places. This consists of what is called *boulder* limestone, and is 8 feet 6 inches in thickness. It has been quarried at the eastern and western extremities of the parish for road metal, but never, so far as I can ascertain, for supplying lime-shells.

About the same distance (120 yards) up the hill, to the southwards of the main quarry, is seen the outcrop of a fourth stratum, 6 feet in thickness, of superior quality to the lowest bed, but inferior to the two middle ones. It has been sometimes quarried, but not regularly. These different beds of limestone are separated from one another by strata of coal, shale, sandstone, and a kind of bastard limestone, which the miners call "sklut."

The limestone is obtained for the most part by "tirring," or removing the superincumbent strata. Mining is permitted by the terms of the leases, where the tirring would exceed 30 feet. And

some of the under-ground quarries extend 120 yards inwards from the face of the rock.

The quantity of lime sold annually exceeds 25,000 bolls, three of which bolls are equivalent to 16 cwt. About one-third of this quantity is shipped at Newburgh for Dundee and Perth, whence it is conveyed to Dunkeld, Crieff, Methven, Cupar Angus, and many other places in Forfarshire and Perthshire. The lime is of excellent quality, averaging upwards of ninety per cent. and some of it being entirely pure. The demand for it is great, and constantly increasing, insomuch that a far greater quantity might be disposed of annually, were it not for the difficulty that has been recently felt in procuring, at a reasonable distance, an adequate supply of coals for burning it. The rent paid annually by the tacksman is regulated by the extent of rock quarried, and averages L. 365.

The price of the lime when sold at the hill is 2s. 8d. per boll. The expense of tiring (or mining) and burning the lime, averages 10d. per boll; the expense of shipping a one horse cart-load (of three bolls) at Newburgh, including carriage, tolls, and shore-dues, is 4s., or 1s. 4d. per boll; the number of workmen (mostly belonging to the parish) engaged at the quarries is 43; and their wages per week are from 9s. to 10s.

Besides these workmen, the lime-quarries of Cults afford employment to a number of carters in conveying coals to the kilns, and lime to the port of Newburgh. In the summer season, there are upwards of a hundred carters from the parishes of Cults, Ceres, Collessie, Largo, Kennoway, Cupar, Kettle, and Cameron, regularly engaged in this occupation. The greater proportion of these are tenants of small farms, which, but for the carting of coal and lime, would not afford sufficient work for their horses. The coals for burning the lime are brought principally from Teasses, in the parish of Ceres, a small quantity from Burnturk, in Kettle, and from Kilmux, in Leven parish.

*Coal Mines.*—There were coal mines wrought, about fifty years ago, on the southern declivity of the Cults hill. These, however, have ever since been neglected, it being doubtful whether they could be wrought to any advantage. There are several beds of coal reposing on the lime strata. One of these is 12 inches in thickness, and the coal is obtained from it in the process of tiring for the limestone. I have just learned, while engaged with this Statistical Account, that a bed of parrot coal has been dis



covered, from 1 to 2 feet in thickness, cropping out between the two uppermost of the four strata of limestone. Of what extent this seam of coal may be, has not yet been ascertained.

*Sandstone Quarries.*—There are a number of freestone quarries in different parts of the parish. The supply of stones is abundant, and easily obtained, and the quality of them is, in some cases, much esteemed.

*Amount of Raw Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce raised annually in this parish is as under :

Grain of all kinds, 3400 quarters, with the straw,	L. 5100	0	0
Potatoes and turnips, 6000 tons,	5000	0	0
Hay, 1200 tons,	3000	0	0
600 acres, laid down in pasture at L. 1, 5s. per acre,	750	0	0
Produce of gardens,	180	0	0
Thinning and felling of plantations,	140	0	0
25,000 bolls of lime at 2s. 8d. per boll,	3333	6	8
Quarrying of freestone, road metal, coal, &c. about	36	13	4

Gross annual amount of raw produce, L. 17,540 0 0

*Linen Weaving.*—This branch of manufactures gives employment to a large proportion of the parishioners. The kind of cloth woven is Dowlas. The webs are usually 140 yards long, and 30 inches wide, containing at an average 35 spindles of yarn. The materials are supplied by manufacturers in Newburgh, Leslie, and Kettle, who have agents in the parish. The number of weavers is 85 males and 65 females, in all 150. Of these nearly one-half are boys or young women under twenty years of age ; while more than a fifth of the whole number are regularly employed at the loom only during the winter, the remainder being exclusively weavers, and following, except in harvest, no other occupation. The average gross wages per web are 17s., or, deducting 2s. 6d. for winding, dressing, &c. the clear wages per web may be stated at 14s. 6d. The average rent of a loom stance is 9s. per annum. The number of webs usually wrought in the course of a year cannot be precisely ascertained ; 1700 may be taken as a fair estimate. Their value when wrought, at an average of L. 5 per web, is L. 8500, the gross sum paid for weaving them at 17s. is L. 1445, of which the weavers receive, as their clear wages at 14s. 6d., L. 1232, 10s. As to wages per week, few even of the best weavers, working steadily twelve or fourteen hours a day, will, after clearing all expenses, realize a greater sum weekly than 7s. The clear average wages earned per week may be stated at not more than 5s. for a man or woman, and 3s. for a boy or girl. The weaving of linens,

therefore, cannot be considered as at present affording by any means an adequate remuneration for the labour employed in it.

Some of the webs being warped in the parish, there are twenty-four old women regularly employed in winding the larger bobbins for the warp,—at which they may earn at an average 2s. 1d. per week. While in winding the smaller bobbins for the woof, the weavers usually employ their wives or children. At this latter employment, if done for hire, from 2s. 6d. to 3s. may be made per week.

*Tow Spinning.*—At Hospital Mill, there were formerly a corn and a flax-mill, which, in 1821, were converted into a mill for spinning tow, at a cost of about L. 4000. The wheel when fully supplied with water, (as it always is except for a few weeks in summer,) works with fourteen horse power. The mill has six carding engines, with the other necessary preparing machinery, and ten spinning frames, containing 368 spindles. The size of yarn spun varies from four to fourteen pounds imperial per spindle. The quantity spun annually is from 160 to 180 tons, and its average value is L. 7000. The principal market to which it is sent is Dundee.

In this factory, there are employed 50 persons, viz. 7 men at wages from 15s. to L. 1 per week; 31 women, 5s. 6d. to 6s.; 12 children, 3s. 6d. to 3s. 9d.

There is another factory (Russell Mill) in the parish of Cupar, a few hundred yards beyond the boundary, which also gives employment to some of the inhabitants of Cults. These two establishments are under the same management. In both of them, a most laudable attention is paid to the comfort, morals, and education of the working people, who are distinguished at once by their intelligence and their morality.

*Mills.*—Besides the spinning-mill, there are in the parish of Cults 3 mills for flour, barley, malt, and oatmeal; 1 for cleaning yarn; 1 saw-mill driven by water; 1 saw-mill to be driven by steam in the course of being erected; 3 thrashing machines driven by water; and 6 thrashing machines wrought by horses.

*Tradesmen.*—The different tradesmen in Cults are as follows, (masters, journeymen, and apprentices being all included): 7 wrights, 14 masons, 9 shoemakers, 4 tailors, 2 turners, 7 blacksmiths, 2 bakers, 2 brewers, and 5 grocers.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market and Post-Town.*—The nearest market and post-town



is Cupar, about four miles to the eastward, where there is a weekly market held every Thursday.

*Means of Communication.*—The high road from Dundee to Edinburgh traverses the parish, and three coaches, one of them the mail-coach, pass along it daily in each direction. There is a carrier from Pitlessie to Cupar, every Thursday, and the Cupar and Edinburgh carriers pass that village thrice a week going to Edinburgh, and thrice a week returning. Letters are brought from the post-office at Cupar, by a messenger who goes thither with letters and parcels usually every day.

*Roads.*—There are two miles of turnpike-road in the parish, and six miles 1615 yards of statute labour roads.

*Villages.*—The only village that can be properly so called is Pitlessie, containing 516 inhabitants. There are also four small hamlets or groups of houses; Crossgates, Walton, Cults Mill, and Hospital Mill, containing from 22 to 70 inhabitants.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated in the centre of the parish, but is nearly a mile distant from the village of Pitlessie, where the mass of the population are congregated. It was built in 1793, and is in good repair. It was seated originally for 360 persons, but a want of seat-room having been recently felt, the kirk-session, in July 1835, requested the heritors to supply it, by affording additional accommodation. The heritors, with commendable liberality, acceded to our request, so that there is now ample seat-room for 430 persons; and the church, it may be added, is as well filled, now that it is enlarged, as it was before the addition was made.

The manse, which adjoins the church, was built in 1795, and is in good repair. The glebe consists of four acres of good arable land, and is at present let at a rent of L. 9. There is no foggage or grass glebe,—the late Mr Wilkie having, with the concurrence of the Presbytery of Cupar, agreed to accept of L. 2 Sterling in lieu of it.

The stipend, exclusive of vicarage and communion elements, averages L. 150. It is as follows: barley, 41 bolls, 3 firloths, 3 pecks,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lippies; meal, 16 bolls, 3 pecks,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lippies; oats, 40 bolls, 1 peck,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lippies; money stipend (including L. 3, 6s. 8d. for communion elements), L. 12, 7s. 2d.; sum allowed from the Exchequer to augment the stipend, L. 60, 2s.; vicarage, L. 2, 11s. 8d.

*Religious Denominations.*—The number of families and individuals of all ages belonging to the different religious denominations, will appear from the following table:

Established Church,	150 families.	678 persons.
United Associate Synod,	29	136
Relief Synod,	13	57
Original Burgher Synod,	2	8
Independents,	3	8

Besides these, there are two or three families that are not attached to any religious denomination.

There is a Dissenting chapel in Pitlessie, in connection with the United Associate Synod. Twenty-five years ago, there was in the same village an Independent chapel, which has since been converted into a dwelling-house, the congregation attaching themselves, for the most part, either to the Established Church, or to some other Dissenting communion. The number of communicants of the Established Church is 348.

*Education.*—The parish school is in the village of Pitlessie. The teacher has a comfortable house, a spacious school-room, the legal extent of garden ground, and the *maximum* salary of L. 34, 4s. 4½d. The branches of education taught by him are, Latin, French, English grammar, writing, bookkeeping, arithmetic, algebra, navigation, and land-surveying. The school-fees for the different branches are, 2s. per quarter for reading; 3s. for reading, and writing; 3s. 6d. when arithmetic is added; and 5s. for Latin. Taking the average of the last seven years, the number of scholars is 60, the amount of school-fees L. 30 per annum, and the emoluments of the teacher derived from other sources, as the session clerkship and registration, are L. 6. There is a private school taught in Pitlessie at present, and attended by 45 scholars. The branches taught in it are, reading, writing and arithmetic; and the school fees are, for reading, 2s.; for writing and arithmetic, 2s. 6d. There is also, in a remote district of the parish, a third school taught by a female, and attended by 20 young children at an average, who pay some of them 1d. and others 2d. per week. A Sabbath school is taught in the church, attended by from 30 to 40 young people, according to the season of the year.

*Poor.*—The average number of paupers receiving regular aid is 12. The sums allowed to them vary from 4s. to 10s. per month, exclusive of house-rent, and coals in winter, with which they are also supplied. Besides these, there are some other persons to whom occasional assistance is given. The whole expenses of the kirk-session, for the last seven years, average L. 50 per annum. The annual amount of collections at the church-door (exclusive of those for religious purposes) averages only L. 12; and the deficiency has of late years been supplied partly by the voluntary con-



tributions of the heritors, and partly by a gift of L. 100 made to the kirk-session by the Honourable Lord Lindsay, as legatee of the late Lady Mary Lindsay Crawford, of which there are still L. 40 remaining. Little delicacy is shewn in applying for parochial aid,—the independent spirit of the Scottish peasantry having, in a great measure, died away in this quarter. In the course of one or two years, a legal assessment for the support of the poor will be inevitable.

*Alehouses.*—There are 8 licensed ale and spirit-dealers, seven in Pitlessie, and one in Crossgates.

*Fuel.*—The fuel principally used is coal, brought for the most part from Balbirnie, in the parish of Markinch, about six miles on the road to Kirkcaldy. Its cost at the pit is 1s. 3d. per load of 18 stone.

*Fairs.*—There were formerly two annual fairs in Pitlessie, for the sale of agricultural stock, chiefly cattle, the one held on the second Tuesday of May, old style, and the other on the third Wednesday of October, old style. The latter has for some years been discontinued; the former is still kept, and is very generally resorted to. It is one of the best attended fairs in the county of Fife.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

In comparing the state of the parish now, with what it appears to have been in 1791, when the last Statistical Account was written, little occurs as worthy of remark. Great improvements have, as might have been expected, taken place in agriculture. Instead of 900 Scots, equal to 1134 imperial acres, the whole extent of arable land in 1791, there are now 1900 imperial acres under regular cultivation. The extent of woodland has greatly diminished, there being now only 115 imperial acres of wood, instead of 400 Scots, equal to 504 imperial acres. The population was then 534; it is now 914. The wages of a day-labourer were then 10d. per day; they are now from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 8d. Houses for labourers were then let at from 4s. to L. 1 a year; they are let now at from L. 1 to L. 3. There were then only two thrashing-machines, there are now nine. The old Statistical Account makes no mention of manufactures, from which it may be concluded that they did not then form, by any means, so important a source as they now do, of employment and subsistence to the parishioners. Since 1791, the following buildings have been erected: a spinning-mill, a saw-mill, a yarn-mill, a stone bridge across the Eden at Clushford, the present Church, the manse, and Crawford priory.

June 1838.

## ADDENDUM.

While these pages have been passing through the press, I have been informed by Dr Anderson of Newburgh, to whom I am indebted for the geology of the parish, that an omission occurs in the series of deposits, as described by him, and that, immediately after the second paragraph in which the yellow sandstone is noticed, several other beds should be stated as following in the order of superposition. Immediately above the yellow sandstone, a series of alternating beds of sandstone, coal, ironstone, and shale occur. There are two thin seams of coal, the lowest of which may be observed cropping out at the farm steading of Cults-Dam, and the other beds have been quarried about a mile to the westward. The thickness of the whole appears to be about 200 feet.

For "orthocerates," in the next paragraph, read "orthoceratites."

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## PARISH OF BALMERINO.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

REV. JOHN THOMSON, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE name of this parish, according to the most ancient orthography, is *Balmurynach*, *Balmerinoch*, and more recently *Balmerino*,—terms obviously of Gothic origin, and compounded of two words signifying "Sailor's Town." It would appear that the name was first applied to a small village of remote antiquity, pleasantly situated on the banks of the estuary of the Tay, and which, so early as the thirteenth century, attracted the notice of the court as an eligible summer residence,—Queen Emergarde having frequently visited the place for the benefit of her health; and close to which, in testimony of her gratitude, she founded an abbey. Naughton, the residence of the principal heritor in the parish, is likewise a term of Gothic origin, which according to the manuscript register of the priory of St Andrews, was anciently written *Doldanha*, afterwards *Chondrohedalion*, *Hydrat-nachten*, *Hadnachten*, all now smoothed down into the short, and to modern ears less dissonant, epithet of Naughton. The Picts, according to the best authorities, had sole possession of the whole of this district of the



county, for a period of at least a thousand years ; and no wonder that, in the course of that time, their language should have given names to every locality within their dominions, many traces of which are still to be found in this immediate neighbourhood.

*Boundaries and Extent.*—The parish stretches along the south bank of the estuary of Tay, from near the mansion-house of Birkhill, on the west, to the Wormit Bay on the east. From these two points, it ranges in a semicircular form towards the small stream of Motray, which constitutes its boundary on the south. Its length along the Tay from east to west, is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles, and its breadth from north to south about  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles. It is bounded on the north by the Frith of Tay ; on the west, by the parish of Flisk ; on the south by Kilmany ; on the east by Forgan or St Fillans. Within this area there are contained about 8 square miles.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Two hilly ridges traverse the parish from east to west, and run nearly parallel to each other. The Scurr Hill and Coultry Hill form the loftiest points of their respective ridges ; the former, which rises in the northern division of the parish, attains an elevation of about 400 feet above the level of the Tay ; and the latter, which occupies the southern division, is about 500. The manse and church are beautifully situated within the intervening valley, which at this point is very narrow, but gradually stretches out to considerable dimensions in its progress eastward. About the centre of the southern ridge, there is a considerable extent of high table-land in which the village of Galdry is placed ; the ground slopes gently down on the south towards the valley of Kilmany, and is terminated on the east by the ravine of Wormit-Den, which here separates the parish from Forgan : the hamlets of Coultry and Corbie Hill lie towards the western extremity. The northern ridge declines more rapidly towards the Tay, the shores of which, along the whole boundary, are extremely bold and rocky, rising in some places into precipitous mural cliffs. The villages of Kirkton and Balmerino are both situated on the western slope of the Scurr Hill ; and a little to the south lie the ruins of the Abbey, where the ground gradually declines towards the banks of the Tay. The house of Naughton is built on the southern acclivity of a small isolated ridge, which rises abruptly a little to the east of the church, in the centre of the valley, on the summit of which the ruins of an old castle are still to be seen. A beautiful picturesque dell lies immediate-

ly beneath, from the bottom of which the rock springs perpendicularly to the height of ninety or one hundred feet, and which is overhung by the walls of the building; presenting no mean idea of the strength of a place that must have frequently been put to proof by the rude assailants of a former age. The parish is well wooded, every spot almost, which is less adapted for tillage, being covered with thriving plantations, and without which, many of the grounds, from their elevated situation, would suffer much by their exposure to the easterly gales.

*Climate.*—Few places in Fife can boast of a healthier climate. The soil is generally dry, resting immediately, over the greater part, on whinstone rock; and there is neither bog nor marsh to interfere with its general salubrity. Ancient history, as well as modern experience, attests its superiority in this respect. Martin takes notice of the fact in his history of the See of St Andrews. “Magdalene, Queen of James V. being,” he says, “a tender Lady, the physicians choosed this place (St Andrews), and the Abacie of Balmerinoch, as having the best aers of any places in the kingdom for her residence and abode.” In subsequent generations, dames of meaner degree have been no less indebted to the excellence of its “aers,” as the following well authenticated facts clearly prove. The writer of the former Statistical account says, “The wholesomeness of the climate appears also from the fruitfulness of the females. The present incumbent has often, in the course of ten years, had an opportunity of baptizing twins; and there are two families in the parish at present, one of whom has had thrice twins, and the other had five sons at two births.” I may be permitted to add, that that individual, during his incumbency, baptized, in the parish, *three times trines*.

Few parishes of equal extent contain a greater number of very old people. There are at present 35 individuals bordering on or upwards of eighty years. One woman is in her ninety-fifth year, and another died last year in her hundredth. From March 1836 to March 1837 six individuals died, whose united ages amounted to five hundred and twelve, giving an average of eighty five-years to each. The last incumbent died in March 1836, in his ninety-first year.

*Hydrography.*—The Tay, as already noticed, washes the northern boundary of the parish, and, possessing a considerable proportion of saline matter, affords, everywhere along the coast, excellent opportunities of bathing to the inhabitants. The estuary is



here about four miles broad, but, as high sand-banks stretch outward for nearly a mile, vessels of limited burden only can approach the harbour. No river or stream of any consequence passes through the parish, but there are various springs from which a copious flow of water continually issues, which, along with that collected from the drainage of the land, affords power enough for three thrashing and one corn-mill. The springs have obviously served, in other days, a more dignified and important end than the practical and economical one to which they are now applied. This appears from the names by which some of them are still designated, viz. the Lady Well, Prior Well, St John's Well, &c.

*Geology.\**—The rocks in this parish belong exclusively to the sandstone and trap families. Of the former there are two varieties, both of which belong to the old red sandstone formations. One of these is the gray sandstone, which is considered by Dr Anderson (Edin. Phil. Journal, July 1837,) as the lowest member of the series, and which, from the organic remains imbedded in it, he regards as the same with the beds that traverse the Sidlaws, Strathmore, and the upper part of Strathearn. These remains are exclusively vegetable, being the culms, leaves, and fruit of the order Gramineæ, and which are found in great abundance in one of the softer beds of the deposit that emerges a little to the west of Wormit Bay. From this point, where it may be traced across the frith to Invergowrie bay, the sandstone ranges westward through the parish, cropping out at Demmons, and various other places on the estate of Birkhill. It is an extremely compact and durable rock, and is admirably adapted for building operations. The bed in which the organic remains are found, is friable and soft, and seems to abound more in aluminous than silicious matter. The mica is also very abundant in this part of the deposit.

The other variety of sandstone is of a reddish colour. It crops out immediately at the harbour, and ranges westward to Birkhill, where it may be observed on the beach beneath the mansion-house. It contains a considerable quantity of quartzzy nodules, and portions of other primitive rocks. A scale—only one—has been found in it, similar to those which occur so abundantly in the Parkhill and Clashbennie beds, also at Dura and Drumdryan, and from this circumstance, it may fairly be regarded as a continuation of these interesting rocks. The bed at the harbour is coarse

\* For this geological description I have been indebted to the Rev. Dr Anderson of Newburgh.

grained, compact, and hard, and at one time was much sought after for oven floors.

The trap or whinstone consists of several varieties, namely, amygdaloid, trap tuffa, compact felspar, clinkstone, and claystone porphyry. Interesting sections of each may be seen along the shore, from the harbour towards Wormit Bay. The amygdaloid is generally coarse and tuffaceous, but gradually passes, in many places, into a finer variety, which may be considered as approaching to the characters of a *greenstone*. The numerous cavities contained in the coarse kind are lined with white amethyst, flesh-red calcareous spar, white felspar, calcedony, agate, green earth, and common quartz. In these nodular masses, the calcedony appears to have been first deposited and the quartz last. The Scurr Hill is well known to the lapidaries and other collectors of these beautiful minerals, and no part of the island, perhaps, affords in such abundance, as well as such rare and choice specimens of the several varieties of agates. The compact felspar becomes porphyritic, is of a deep flesh-red colour, and susceptible of a fine polish. The whole of these rocks, as may be seen at Wormit Bay and Birkhill, are intimately associated with the stratified deposits, and afford the student in geology an interesting view of the manner in which the igneous matter has been injected amongst the sedimentary beds; as well as the induration and disruptions among the latter, that have resulted from the intrusion of the former. The sandstone is, in many instances, by the intrusion of the trap, split up into thin laminæ, varying from an inch to a quarter of an inch in thickness; it is sometimes tossed into a vertical position; and in other cases, as at Birkhill beach, the two rocks are so blended and mixed up with each other, as to render it difficult to distinguish them, or to separate the amorphous from the stratified portions.

Boulders of primitive rocks are to be found in every locality along the shore, as well as on the highest ridges. One of huge dimensions, which lay a little to the north of the manse, excited no small degree of attention, as well as speculation, among the people, as to the means by which it had been placed, bridge-like, across a stream there. It measured about twelve feet in length by nine in breadth, and was of great thickness. By the last incumbent, who was fonder of practical agricultural improvements than of plausible and ingenious speculations, it was unceremoniously committed to the blasting influences of gunpowder, when, after being blown into an hundred fragments, it afforded employment



of many days hard work before it could be carted away to the enclosures on the grass glebe. It was a primitive hornblend, or greenstone rock, and must have been transported from beyond "the far distant Grampians" by the agency of floods, of which we have now happily no experience.

*Soil.*—The soil is in general thin, of a black loamy quality where it rests immediately upon the whinstone; and is fit for carrying crops of every description. This is generally the character of the fields which range along the southern and northern divisions of the parish. Much of the intervening valley consists of either a light and gravelly soil, or of a strong plastic till, but, through the operations of an enterprising tenantry, it has been rendered completely fertile.

*Botany.*—The plants which occur in this parish are such as are common to the general flora of the Ochils, and, as it can boast of neither lake nor marsh, few aquatics are found within it. Along the shore, the following are to be met with: *Scirpus maritimus*, *Agrostis vulgaris*, *Hordeum maritimum*, *Triticum loliaceum*, *Glaux maritima*, *Rumex maritima*, *Statice Armeria*, *Alisma plantago*, *Cochlearia Anglica*, *Artemisia maritima*. Throughout the other districts of the parish the following occur abundantly: *Fedia olitoria*, *Iris pseudacorus*, *Briza media*, *Parietaria officinalis*, *Primula vulgaris*, *elatior* and *veris*, *Agrimonia eupatoria*, *Geum rivale*, *Bartsia odontites*, *Geranium sylvaticum*, *Malva sylvestris*, *Scrophularia nodosa*, *Euphorbia paralia*, *Silene inflata*, *Lychnis Flos-cuculi* and *dioica*, *Tussilago petasites*, *Tulipa sylvestris*, once abundant at the Abbey, but now very rare.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Under this head, few particulars can be gleaned, from any authentic sources, of sufficient importance to be communicated to the public. The history of the Monastery, which will be noticed in its proper place, is connected with the earliest transactions that are to be found in the records of the parish; and as there are no chartered towns in it, or corporations of any kind, nothing of a civic or burghal description requires to be stated.

*Eminent Men.*—Among the list of eminent men, however, its annals can justly boast of two, if public notoriety or a tragical end entitle any to that distinction. One of these was the celebrated Lord Balmerino, who suffered for his share in the rebellion of 1745, and whose history is too well known to need repetition here. The family estate was in this parish, and pas-

sed, after its forfeiture to the Crown, into the hands of the York-Building Company, from whom it was purchased by the family of Moray, and is now in the possession of Francis Stuart, Esq., nephew of the present Earl. The other individual alluded to is Andrew Gullan, who was also a native of this parish, and was hanged on Magus Muir as an accessory to the murder of Archbishop Sharpe, being convicted of the crime "of holding Halkerstone of Rathillet's mare," while the principal conspirators were engaged in that bloody deed.

A name of less questionable distinction than either of the above remains to be noticed,—Mr Peter Hay, son of the laird of Megginsh, and who became proprietor of Naughton about the beginning of the seventeenth century. This gentleman was author of a work entitled "The First Blast of the Trumpet," printed in 1627, and which is well known to have had considerable influence on the stirring events of that reforming age. It excited the special displeasure of Archbishop Spottiswood, as appears from the records of the synod of St Andrews, in which the following allusion to it occurs: "The Synod haldin at St Androis, 2d October 1627, my Lord Archbishop desyred that the purpose concerning Mr Peter Hay of Naughton his buik, suld not be mentioned in the Publict Synod, and declaired that his Lordship would not be present if the sam war spoken of."\*

*Parliamentary Constituency.*—The number of persons who are qualified to vote for a Member of Parliament, in consequence of the Magna Charta of 1832, amounts to 22.

*Land-owners.*—The principal proprietors in the parish are, Mrs Bethune Morison of Naughton; Henry Scrimgeour Wedderburn, Esq. of Wedderburn and Birkhill; and Francis Stuart, Esq. of Balmerino. There are five additional heritors, whose properties are comparatively small. Two of the principal, and three of the small, heritors reside in the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest records of the session, including births and marriages, date from 1652, and have been tolerably well kept.

*Antiquities.*—The ruins of the Abbey of Balmerino constitute the chief object of attraction under this head. The site of the building has been admirably chosen, as a place at once of beauty, comfort, and convenience, standing on an eminence in the immediate vicinity of the Tay, and commanding a full view of that

\* The Synod of Fife, printed for the Abbotsford Club, 1837.



noble estuary, as far up as its junction with the Earn. It is situated on the south bank of the Frith, about twelve miles from its mouth, and overlooks, towards the north, the rich and fertile Carse of Gowrie, where the eye is presented with a wide range of pleasing and impressive scenery, with the lofty peaks of the Grampians towering majestically above the whole; forming such a richly diversified and striking panorama, as may vie with those of greater celebrity.

This monastery was founded by Alexander II. in the year 1229, at the suggestion of his mother, Emergarde, widow of King William the Lion, in consequence of the beauty of the situation, and the benefit she had derived to her health by her occasional visits to the district. It belonged to the order of the Cisterrians, whose earliest settlement in this country was at Melros, and was dedicated to the Virgin Mary, and St Edward the Confessor. The dress of the Cisterrians was a white cassock, whence they were called "*Monachi albi*," with a narrow scapulary, over which they wore a black gown when they went abroad, and a white one when they went to the church. The rules of the order were those of St Benedict, which, in regard to food and other necessities for the table, enjoined the utmost plainness and abstinence, in the shape of everything that approached to luxury. Flesh was allowed only to the sick. They might use the common herbs of the country, but pepper and the foreign spices were forbidden. It was directed that their monasteries should be situated in the most retired and solitary places: and that the monks were to live by the labour of their hands, in cultivating the earth, and keeping cattle. When any of them went abroad, they were obliged always to go two together, to guard and witness each others conduct, and to prompt each other to good thoughts. They all slept in the same dormitory, which was a long room, not divided into separate cells; and each monk had a bed to himself, furnished with a mat, blanket, coverlet, and pillow, which was prescribed to be only a foot and a half long. The superior ecclesiastics took considerable pains to cultivate and promote learning, so that from the strictness of the rules, and the works that resulted from their labours, the Cisterrian order soon acquired celebrity, and speedily came to have monasteries in every country in Europe, all of which had the privilege of being independent of the bishop within whose diocese they were situated \*

\* *Annales Cisterciensis*. Monastic Annals of Tiviotdale, by the Rev. J. Morton, B. D.

The Abbey of Balmerino seems to have been richly endowed, when we consider the abstemious habits and severe rules enjoined upon the order. Queen Emergarde bestowed upon it the lands of Cultrach, Balmurynach and Ardin, which she bought from Sir Adam de Stawell for 1000 merks Sterling;\* and she left 200 merks, to be bestowed by her executors in purchasing from Laurence de Abernithy, a full resignation of his interest in the lands of Cultrach, Balnedan, Balnedart, Corteby and Balmurynach. King Alexander granted the foundation charter on 3d February 1230,† and added to the lands bestowed by his mother, the church and lands of Lochmure (?) in Angus, and Petgornoc and Drumdol in Fife. David de Lindesay gives it an annuity out of his mill of Kirkhuet, which was confirmed by King Alexander II. in 1233. The preceptory of Gadvan, near Denbog, in Fife, with the house and lands, belonged also to this abbey; and two or three monks of their order constantly resided in that place.‡

Balmerino, in the course of the thirteenth, or early in the fourteenth century, received several benefactions from persons of the family of Kynner, of lands in the territories of Kynner and Cotholoc; a fishing in Tay from Sir David de Berkeley of Brechin; the quarry of Nydin from Hugh de Nydin; and numerous small burgage possessions in Perth, Dundee, Crail, and Anstruther. In the year 1561, at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries, the revenues of this abbey were, in money L. 704, 2s. 10½d.; wheat, 4 chalders; oats, 1 chalders, 14 bolls, 1 firloft, 3½ pecks; meal, 15 chalders, 12 bolls, 2 firlofts; bear 21 chalders, 12 bolls, 3 firlofts, 1½ peck; total 43 chalders, 6 bolls, 3 firlofts, 1 peck; and 763 poultry.

The monks of Balmerino did not always adhere rigidly to the rules of their order. With the progress of their wealth, and the benefactions which were from time to time bestowed upon them, they became gradually more and more relaxed in their habits, till they came, according to the Franciscan of Buchanan, to share in all the corruptions of the times. In 1533,§ a special commission was appointed to visit and reform the monasteries throughout Scotland. The faults which particularly called forth this animadversion, were infringements of the rule which forbade the brethren to possess any private property, but to have all things in common.

\* Anno 1225, Chartul. of Balmerinloch, Advocates' Library. † Ibid.

‡ Keith's Scottish Bishops, edited by Dr Russell, 1824.

§ Harleian MSS. 2363. Monastic Annals of Tiviotdale.



It was found that many of the monks, especially in the abbeys of Melros, Newbattle, and Balmerino had not only portions and pensions allowed them for their food and clothing, but that each monk had also a garden appropriated to his own particular use and pleasure. The visitor, therefore, in his visitation roll specified these things as illicit indulgences, which he enjoined them forthwith to relinquish. With this the monks did not comply, and after a convocation of them had been held at Edinburgh, it was agreed that they might retain their private gardens, provided no monk had a larger one than another, and that a common way was made through all the gardens by opening a passage from one to another, the productions of the whole being made a common stock, and applied to the use of the convent. The garden ground of this monastery seems to have been immediately around the building, as is still indicated by the name, viz. the orchard and over-yards, by the richness of the soil, its black loamy character, and the abundance of oyster shells contained in it, and must have comprised an extent of many acres.

The abbey was demolished by the Lords of the Congregation on their way from St Andrews in 1558.\* The last abbot was Sir John Hay, probably of the family of Naughton. He was master of requests in the reign of Queen Mary † in 1561. After the Reformation, the abbey was erected into a temporal lordship, in favour of Sir James Elphinston of Barnton, created Lord Balmerinoch, 20th February 1604, whose rise to power, and subsequent condemnation and disgrace, are matters of public history.

The building is now a complete ruin, a small portion of the walls and a few pillars being all that remains to indicate the ancient magnificence of the monastery. One arched room, indeed, and a cell or dormitory, is still pretty entire; but to what part of the erection these belonged, it is impossible to conjecture. The pillars are clustered, and the corbals or capitals from which the arches spring, and some of the key-stones, bear marks of the elegance with which they have been originally finished; on many of which the likeness of fruit, flowers, and religious emblems, as well as more grotesque figures, may still be traced. A drawing of the building as it stands may be seen in Swan's Views in Fife, now in the progress of publication.

The old Castle of Naughton, already alluded to, is equally now

\* Lesly, &c.

† Sibbald's Fife, Ed. 1803.

"the shadow of a shade,"—all that remains of it being a few fragments of the lower parts of the side walls. This place is said to have been built by Robertus de Lundon, a natural son of King William. Soon after, Naughton was acquired by John de Haya, the third son of William de Haya, the first of the family of Errol.\* The Hays are mentioned as Lairds of Naughton about King Alexander III.'s reign. † In 1494, Sir Patrick Crichton got the lands in marriage with Janet, the daughter and heiress of Sir James de la Hay. ‡ From the Crichtons, Mr Peter Hay, § a son of the Laird of Megginsh purchased the lands in the beginning of the seventeenth century. In the year 1737, the estate was brought to a judicial sale by the creditors of Robert Hay of Naughton, and purchased by William Morison, Esq. the great grandfather of the present proprietor, Mrs Bethune Morison.

Here, according to Sibbald, there was an establishment of Culdees in connection with that of St Andrews. Three churches are particularly mentioned in "Extracts from the Large Register:" one at Forteviot, one at Monechata, or Moonzie, and one at Doldanha or Naughton. These buildings, it appears, were all of wood; and, of course, conjecture as to the site of the erection here would be vain. Monechata is supposed by Dr Jamieson, in his history of the Culdees, to be Monikie in Forfarshire; but if Doldanha be an allowable transition into Naughton, there can be no reasonable objection upon this ground, to the change of Monechata, into Moonzie, which, along with Forteviot, was ever afterwards attached to the see of St Andrews, when the Culdee establishments gave way to the monastic institutions.

There is a field in the parish called the Battle-law, where the Scots, it is said, attacked the Danes after their retreat from Luncarty, again defeated, and forced them to flee with precipitation, on board their ships, then lying in the mouth of Tay. Near this field, have been found stone-coffins, bones, and pieces of broken swords. At the farm of Peashills, about a mile north-east of the above-named field, were found some years ago two pieces of gold, of the value of L. 14 Sterling. One piece was in the form of a ball, and appeared to have been the knob usually attached to the hilt of a sword; the other, which is in the possession of Mrs Morison of Naughton, has evidently been an ornament of some kind

\* Wood's Peerage.

† Sibbald's Fife, 1803.

‡ Writs of the family of Naughton.

§ The author of "The first Blast of the Trumpet," already referred to.



or other ; but whether it adorned the helmet, the breast-plate, or the sword handle, antiquaries have not yet fully agreed.

*Modern Buildings.*—There is little to be noticed in this respect. Birkhill, the seat of Henry S. Wedderburn of Wedderburn and Birkhill, is a very elegant and commodious mansion, beautifully situated amongst extensive plantations, on the banks of the Tay. Naughton House was erected in the end of the last century, and has since received many alterations and improvements. The church and manse were built,—the first in 1811 and the other in 1816; the former is rather small for the increasing wants of the parish; the latter, with an excellent set of offices, is suitable and commodious. They are all built of stone found in the parish.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish has been steadily on the increase for many years past, owing to feuing, and to its vicinity to Dundee, where employment can easily be procured in the manufacturing of linen, &c.

The population in 1755 amounted to 565

1491	-	703
1821	-	965
1831	-	1055
1837	-	1070

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is 27, of marriages 6. There is no register of deaths kept. The average number of persons, their ages, employments, and families is as under :

In 1831 the number under 15 years of age was,	-	-	430
betwixt 15 and 30	-	-	236
30 and 50	-	-	221
50 and 70	-	-	138
above 70	-	-	30
Number of families at present,	-	-	215
houses,	-	-	213
Average number of children,	-	-	3
Number of communicants,	-	-	458
male heads of families,	-	-	148
Dissenters, about	-	-	80
inhabitants in villages,	-	-	550

The number of individuals employed in weaving is about 150. The rest are chiefly engaged in agriculture. There are in the parish 5 grocers, 3 wrights, 4 shoemakers, 3 blacksmiths, 3 tailors, 1 medical practitioner, and 5 publicans.

*Character of the People.*—The inhabitants are justly entitled to be regarded as honest, industrious, sober, and extremely exemplary in their attendance upon the ordinances of religion. They are strongly attached to the Established Church, and less than ordinarily given to the following of divisive courses.

During the last three years, there have been three illegitimate births in the parish; and a long time has elapsed since any suffered, either for theft or disturbance of the public peace.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

##### *Agriculture and Rural Economy.*

In cultivation there are	2694 imperial acres.
In wood	467
Unarable, roads, &c.	185

Total, 3346

*Rent of Land.*—The valued rent of the parish amounts to L. 4085, 10s. Scots. The real rent is about L. 4800 Sterling. The average rent of arable land is about L. 1, 16s. per imperial acre.

*Rate of wages.*—A ploughman's wages averages from L. 10 to L. 12, with  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal per annum and a pint Scots of sweet milk per day; female house-servants have from L. 5 to L. 6 per annum; labourers 1s. 6d.; and female-field labourers 8d. per day; masons and wrights have from 16s. to 18s. a week; a good weaver labouring twelve hours per day will average about 2s.

*Produce.*—The amount of produce may be estimated as follows:

Value of all kinds of grain,	L. 8500
potatoes,	- 1200
cattle,	- 1440

L. 11,140

The produce of the salmon-fishings, which used to be immense, has not for some years past paid rent and wages, exclusive of material.

Cattle are sold off fat, rising three years old, and bring from L. 10 to L. 15 a-head. Turnips and hay are consumed by the stock, except in very rare instances. About 105 cattle are yearly fattened for the butcher, and as many calves reared. There are in the parish 14 thrashing-machines, three of which are driven by water power, 47 ploughs, and 98 horses for agricultural purposes.

*Husbandry.*—The method of cropping varies according to the nature of the soil. On the strongest soils, a rotation of six years is adopted, viz. fallow a potatoes, wheat, green-crop, (turnip or pease), barley, grass, and oats. On the lighter soils, the rotation is, potatoes, wheat, barley, grass (to lie two years) and oats: and on the lightest, green crop (turnip eaten off with sheep), barley, grass (to lie two or three years) and oats. The farmers generally take grass parks for their young stock, to supply the want of pasture at home.

*Fishings.*—The salmon-fishery, once so productive here, is



now very inconsiderable, being confined exclusively to the *toot-net* method of capturing the fish. The net employed is from 50 to 80 yards long, and differs little from the common *seine* or sweep net. Instead of being constantly kept in motion, as the latter is, it is attached to a boat at anchor, and only hauled when the *toots-man*, who watches in the boat, observes a fish strike the net. It is totally unsuited to estuary fishing.

The number of boats connected with the fisheries in this parish amount to 7, and they keep employed 14 men during the open season. The fisheries belong to Mr Wedderburn of Birkhill, Mrs B. Morison of Naughton, and Mr Stuart of Balmerino, and are rented at about L. 50 per annum.

The spirling fishery was once productive here also; but for several years back, it has not been pursued, as the spirlings seem to have abandoned this part, (probably on account of the increase of the sand-banks) and are only to be found at some of the rapids farther up.

The inhabitants of this district deeply lament the suppression of the stake-net mode of fishing, which was abolished by a decision of the Court of Session in 1812, upon a complaint of the upper heritors, and affirmed by the House of Lords upon appeal in 1816. This decision was founded upon certain old acts of the Scottish Parliament, which were directed against a particular kind of *river* fishing, termed *weir*, *yair*, or *cruive*. There is an infinite variety of such engines in use; but there is one peculiarity common to them all, viz. that they prevent the ascent of the fish except by a particular channel, in which a trap for detaining them is inserted. This mode of fishing, practised at a very early period, is noticed by the most ancient writers, and is the subject of legislation in our earliest statutes. It is obvious that fixed engines of this description, when employed without restraint, would have the effect of shutting up the river, preventing the ascent of the fish, and destroying the fry. In consequence, the use of such engines in *rivers* was forbidden, except where they had existed for a long course of time. Even in those cases, the engines were placed under certain restraints, which seem to have been considered sufficient for protecting the spawners, and young fish. This mode of fishing, efficient in rivers, cannot, it is obvious from its nature, be applied with similar success in estuaries and the open sea. Accordingly, there has been little fishing, until of late years, except in the rivers,—so little, indeed, that the salmon has been vulgarly re-

garded as a river-fish. The seals and grampuses have remained in undisturbed possession of the salt water fishing.

In the year 1797, the stake-net was introduced in the Solway Frith (where it is at present legal !) and in the Frith of Tay. This engine was constructed by driving strong stakes in a row, from the shore towards low water mark, and nearly at right angles to the tide. On these stakes, were stretched nets with open meshes, three inches from knot to knot, or twelve inches round. Thus a wall of open netting was constructed, sufficient to intercept the large fish, but through which the water, and all small fishes, could pass freely. In this wall of netting, were placed courts or labyrinths. The salmon, influenced in their movements by the tide, met this netted wall, and, seeking along for an opening through which to pass, entered these courts, where they were detained and taken out at low water. By means of these nets, great quantities of salmon, of the first quality, were caught, and exported in boxes packed with ice to the London market. The proprietors of the river fisheries now got alarmed for their monopoly, and, taking advantage of the antiquated statutes referred to above, some of them passed by the Scottish legislature more than four hundred years ago, and long before it was ever dreamt of that salmon-fishing could be successfully carried on in the friths or seas, applied for an interdict, and ultimately succeeded in prohibiting the use of such fixed machinery: the courts having held, that, as these statutes had never been repealed, any infringement of their provisions must be held illegal. The effect of this decision has been greatly to deteriorate the estuary fishery; while the proprietors of the river fishings enjoy a monopoly price in the market.

In framing these regulations, the object of the Scottish Legislature must have been to protect the public interests and prevent injury to the fishery generally; and this is the only ground upon which they can yet be defended. Experience, however, has proved that this defence of them cannot be maintained. At the early period when these regulations were framed, little was known regarding the salmon; but from what is now known of its habits and history, it is perfectly well ascertained, that while in the friths and in the sea, (where alone stake-nets can be used,) none but fish in the best condition are caught; in the rivers, salmon of inferior quality, and often in a foul and unwholesome state, are taken;—that it is in the *rivers*, and in these alone, that any injury can be done to the spawn, or salmon fry, by the heavy ground ropes which



are drawn across the spawn-beds;—that the stake-nets do not interrupt or interfere with the river fishings, as it has been proved that the quantity caught in the river, since the stake-nets were abolished, does not exceed the quantity caught when these were in use;—that, in short, the effect of the prohibition has been to secure a monopoly price to the river-fishers, while the myriads of salmon which escape from the rivers and find their way to the sea, and which might become a valuable article of commerce, and be made available as a rich and nutritious article of food to the public, at a moderate price, are totally lost, or only abandoned as a prey to the monsters of the deep.

The extent of the loss in the Tay generally, in consequence of the suppression of these nets, has been estimated at from 200 to 300 tons, or from 20,000 to 30,000 head of salmon annually. The whole estuary does not now produce above 3000 fish. (Evidence before a Committee of the House of Commons, 1827.) In this parish alone the loss may be estimated in rent at L. 1000 to L. 1200 annually to the different proprietors; and about L. 1000 in the shape of wages. Other evils also have resulted. The aged females and others have been deprived of an excellent and healthy employment in the working of nets, while a hardy and expert race of seamen were regularly trained through means of their connection with the fishery. Let us hope that an enlightened and paternal legislature, under whose revision the fishery laws are again to be brought, will speedily remove the present oppressive restrictions upon this lucrative branch of industry, by which not individual proprietors alone, but the community at large, must be so extensively benefited, and in the decision of which question they have so deep an interest.

*Manufactures.*—Since the destruction of the stake-net fishery, many of the individuals employed in that amphibious kind of occupation have betaken themselves entirely to the trade of weavers. None of them, however, have as yet risen to the dignity and professional importance of manufacturers, but derive their webs, at second hand, from those of this class in Dundee. About 150 men and women are engaged at the loom with materials supplied from this quarter. The linens which they weave are called Dowlas and Osnaburg, and, as has been elsewhere stated, an expert weaver will earn about 2s. per day. Some of the young men thus employed in the winter months, are engaged in the Greenland whale-

fishery during the season of that now hazardous and precarious employment.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets, Means of Communication.*—The nearest market-town is Cupar, distant about seven miles. The nearest post-office is Newport, and is distant about four and a half miles from the manse. There are no turnpike roads in the parish; but the statute labour roads are in good condition, and the means of communication with other places are various, and of easy access. There is a passage-boat which sails from Balmerino pier to Dundee once a week, or oftener if required. Considering the population of the parish, this department of our statistics is rather meagre in its details. There is neither baker, brewer, nor butcher within its bounds. The navigation or shipping interest is upon an equally limited scale. Only the passage-boat, which is a joint-stock concern, belongs to the parish. Many vessels with coals, however, discharge their cargoes during the season. About fifty years ago, according to the last Statistical Account, this harbour was the chief place on the south side of Tay for shipping grain; now not a single boll is shipped here, if we except such parcels of wheat as the farmers in the immediate neighbourhood send by the passage-boat to the Dundee bakers. The Messrs Rintoul, however, carry on a considerable trade in potatoes, which are sent up to the London market. In some seasons, upwards of 6500 bolls have been shipped from this port by these gentlemen, besides what has been exported by them from other places.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated about the centre of the parish, and is seated for about 400. It was finished in 1811. It is a plain building without any ornament, but considerably deficient in point of accommodation for the parishioners. The heritors, however, have it in contemplation to enlarge its dimensions. The manse was built in 1816, and is one of the most commodious in the presbytery. The glebe consists of about eight acres, and the grass glebe as much, including the site of the manse, &c. and both are of inferior quality. The stipend is 16 chalders, half meal, half barley, and 7 bolls of wheat, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The collections, exclusive of extra, average about L. 18 per annum.

The number of families attending the Established Church is 195; of Dissenting or Seceding families, 20.

*List of Ministers of Balmerino from the Reformation.*—Mr Ar-



chibald Keith, admitted 1560; Mr Patrick Auchinleck was minister in 1571; Mr Thomas Douglas, admitted 1580; Mr Walter Greig, admitted assistant and successor to Mr Douglas, died 1672; Mr Andrew Bruce, admitted 1673; Mr James Gairns or Gairdner, admitted 1676, translated to Carnbee 1678; Mr George Hay, admitted 1678; Mr John Auchterlony, admitted —, outed 1689; Mr Andrew Bowie, admitted 1690, translated to Ceres 1692; vacant from 1692 to 1696; Mr James Hay, admitted 1696; Mr Kerr, admitted assistant and successor to Mr Hay 1st May 1722, died December 1741; Mr Thomas Stark, admitted 27th May 1742, died 5th March 1772; Mr John Stark, admitted 22d April 1773, demitted 30th October 1781; Mr Andrew Thomson, ordained September 5th 1782, died 6th March 1836; Mr John Thomson, appointed assistant and successor to his father in 1824.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The poor of the parish are supported by the collections made at the church, and by the liberality of the heritors and inhabitants. Those upon the roll get from 3s. to 6s. a month; others get occasional relief at the new year and sacrament, in money, coals, or meal, according to circumstances; and the resident proprietors of Naughton and Birkhill distribute, during winter, coals and meal to the most necessitous. The proprietor of Balmerino has given, for some years back, L. 10 to the poor on his own estate. The heritors also assess themselves to the amount of L. 20 per annum, for the maintenance of two idiots. The number of persons receiving parochial aid is 12 or thereby. The average annual amount of church collections for the poor is L. 18.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish—the parochial school, and one taught by a female. There are in winter generally from 120 to 130 scholars attending the former, and about 40 at the latter. The salary of the parish school is the maximum, and the fees amount to from L. 25 to L. 30 per annum. The branches taught in it are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, mathematics, geography, &c.:—Greek and Latin are not much required. The teacher is eminently qualified for his situation, being possessed not only of all the requisite information in no ordinary degree, but peculiarly fitted for communicating it to his pupils. A decided improvement has taken place, as well in the amount as in the standard of education, since his appointment to this parish;

and it is pleasant to find that his labours are duly appreciated by the inhabitants at large.

*Fuel.*—This article of domestic economy consists entirely of coal, and is chiefly imported from Newcastle and the Frith of Forth. The farmers who have the command of carriages supply themselves occasionally and their servants from the coal-pits in the southern parts of the country; from the nearest of which the parish is distant about twelve miles. English coal is obtained at the shore, at the rate of from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per boll of six cwt. according to quality; and the Scotch at about 6s. per boll of 8 cwt. The price of the best coal at the nearest pit, which is Drumcarro, is 1s. 10d. per load of 4 cwt.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The improvements in husbandry and agriculture are abundantly manifest in the district, since the date of last Account. Many wastes have been reclaimed, marshes have been drained, and thriving plantations are everywhere rising up for shelter and protection. The systems of wedge draining and subsoil ploughing are being adopted. Turnips are extensively sown; and the practice of eating them off with sheep, in suitable situations, is general. The roads through the parish have also been much improved, and are, in general, kept in excellent repair. Many of the farm-steadings are newly erected, and some of them may vie with any in the country, either in extent of accommodation, or in neatness and elegance of structure.

22d February 1838.

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## PARISH OF FLISK.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE MARSHALL, MINISTER.\*

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#### TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—FLISK appears to have been the ancient, as well as modern name of the parish. It is possibly connected with the word

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\* Drawn up by the Rev. Robert Traill, A. M. Assistant *pro tempore* to the Rev. Mr Marshall.



*Fleasg*, signifying in the Irish language *wet* or *moist*,—a description applicable to the former state of the soil.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish, situated on the southern bank of the Tay, some miles below Newburgh, stretches along the margin of the river, which is here nearly a straight line,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  miles; but its average length is not more than 4 miles. Its breadth varies considerably. For fully more than a mile, commencing at the eastern extremity, it does not exceed half a mile in breadth; then suddenly widening, it is for 2 miles about three-quarters of a mile broad; and at the eastern extremity, it extends to  $1\frac{3}{4}$  mile from the river,—presenting a surface of  $3\frac{1}{2}$  or 4 square miles. Its general figure may be easily conceived from the preceding account of its extent, the straight margin of the river being considered as the line on which the successive oblongs of which it may be conceived to consist, are laid off. It is bounded on the north by the Tay; on the east by Balmerino; on the south by Creich, a detached part of Abdie and Dunbog; and on the west by Dunbog.

*Topographical Appearances.*—Along the river, the ground for about a quarter of a mile in breadth is nearly level, or has but a gentle ascent; then it rises rapidly, and to a considerable height, forming part of that hilly range which runs along the south side of the Tay, including within the limits of the parish, Lyndemus (about 750 feet in height, and properly constituting the first rise on Norman's Law,) Logie Law, and Glenduckie Hill. To the south of Glenduckie Hill, it sinks again into a valley; and it is there, it stretches to the distance of  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile from the river.

At each extremity of the parish, the bank of the Tay is marked by a rapid slope of about 100 feet, and chiefly covered with natural grass. The slope of the central portion is more gradual, and on it cultivation is carried to the edge of the river.

*Meteorology.*—The winds, probably guided by the hills, frequently take the direction of the river, and sometimes drive along with furious violence. Those from the north and east are often piercing; but the air is pure and salubrious, and a good share of health seems enjoyed by the inhabitants. Formerly, when the lower grounds were marshy, ague prevailed in the spring; but now that the soil is comparatively dry, the disease has disappeared.

*Hydrography.*—The Tay, as already noticed, flows so as to form the northern boundary of the parish. At the western extremity of the parish, and nearly three miles below Newburgh, this noble river, at high-water, according to R. and A. Stevenson's survey in

1833, is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  mile in breadth. At Flisk-point, three miles farther down, and just below the church, it is 2 miles broad; and at the eastern extremity,  $2\frac{1}{2}$ . At low-water, extensive sand-banks are left dry on the Perthshire side; and the fresh-water current, which here keeps by this side of the estuary, then confines itself to a channel of about one-third of a mile. The beach is clayey, and it is fenced with a bed of shingle left by the tide. Several dikes have been projected into the river, that the intermediate spaces might silt up; but hitherto without effect.

There are many excellent springs in the parish. In several, in different localities, Fahrenheit's thermometer stood at  $43^{\circ}$  on the 15th of May; and at  $46^{\circ}$ ,  $47^{\circ}$  on the 30th of June 1837.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The upper series of rocks consists chiefly of secondary trap. It is cut by a vein of clinkstone porphyry. Old red sandstone appears by the river, under Flisk Wood. The greenstone dike, known by the name of the Flisk-dike, passes through Glenduckie Hill, in its course from Newburgh to Norman's Law. Agates and also pieces of bloodstone are found in considerable numbers. Diluvium covers the rocky substratum between the river and the hilly range.

A submarine forest of ten miles in length, and similar to those of Skaill in Orkney, of Lincolnshire, and of Mount's Bay in Cornwall, lies along the margin of the Tay, stretching from Flisk-point under the manse, about three miles upwards and seven down the river. It is covered at full tide with four or five feet of water. It consists of a bed of peat-moss, and has no alluvial stratum superinduced. Many stumps of trees with their roots attached, and manifestly in the place and position in which they originally grew, have been observed. It rests on a bed of gray coloured clay, whose surface, with slight variations, is horizontal, and on a level with low water-mark.

It seems pretty certain that this moss must be at least ten feet below its original level. In explanation of the phenomenon Dr Fleming, in his paper on the subject in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for 1822, supposes the former existence of a lake in this locality—that it gradually filled up, and became covered with vegetable matter, till it sufficed for the growth of trees—that the seaward barrier was then removed—and that, the moisture now freely escaping, subsidence in consequence took place, and reduced it to its present level.

*Soils.*—The soil is, in general, a clayey loam. On the lower



grounds by the river, and especially on the three middle farms, the intermixture of clay is considerable, forming a fertile, though hard soil, from eight to twelve inches in depth. In some places, the loam disappears, and gravel and clay beds present themselves, chiefly close by the margin of the river. Towards the west, the soil is sharp and more friable. The subsoil is chiefly clay and till, and in some places sand. On the higher grounds, the loam is purer, varies from one to three feet in depth, and lies on rock, clay, and till, and here and there on patches of moor-band. On the south of Glenduckie Hill, it is good black, easy loam, recovered from wet and marshy ground; and the soil removed in making drains and water-courses has been conveyed higher up the hill, and forms about twenty acres of arable land, where the rock was chiefly visible before.

The more level portions of the parish, whether on the lower or more elevated ground, were formerly very wet; and the hollows were marshes at no very distant date. Innumerable drains and large ditches have now, however, rendered the soil comparatively dry.

Boulders were once thickly spread, but are now removed. Some idea of their number, and of the labour of clearing the ground, may be formed from the fact, that three men and two pair of horses were employed on one "balk," on Flisk-mill farm, for a fortnight, and that 500 cart-loads of stones were drawn from two and a-half acres. Many of the boulders contain from four to six, eight, or twelve feet of solid matter; and others, which required to be broken by gunpowder before they could be removed, must have been much larger. One lying by the river near Flisk-point, and said by marvel-loving tradition to have been hurled by a giant from the opposite side of the Tay, and aimed at the church, contains about 150 feet; and another, higher up the river, and now partly broken and partly sunk into the soil, must have been, at least, of equal dimensions. They are generally of the primitive rocks, granite, gneiss, mica-slate, and quartz, though some are conglomerate, and others compact felspar.

*Zoology.*—The common salmon and the spirling, or *Salmo eperlanus*, frequent the river. The seal is an unwelcome visitor. The porpoise may be seen playing its gambols, when the tide is up; and the grampus, also, sometimes makes its appearance. Flocks of wild geese frequent the river and the hill-sides, for some months after harvest.

*Botany.*—The common culinary vegetables are, colewort, cabbage, onions, leeks, carrots, peas, beans, potatoes, and turnips. The grains grown are wheat, barley, and oats. Peas and beans are also sown in the field.

*Plantations.*—The plantations are neither numerous nor extensive. The oldest is Flisk Wood, which is mentioned in the earliest accounts, and fills up the north-eastern corner of the parish, between the Tay and Corbie-burn, extending at present over ninety-one acres. The largest is that on and around the summit of Glenduckie-Hill, covering 113 acres. The plantations altogether amount to 264 acres; and, with the exception of eighty acres of oak in Flisk Wood, they consist chiefly of larch and Scotch fir, and are from twenty to forty years old.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

This parish cannot boast of any historical events of importance, or of any occurrences worthy of note.

*Eminent Character.*—The greater part, if not the whole of the parish, became the property of the Noble house of Rothes, in the reign of Robert the Bruce, by the marriage of Sir Andrew de Lesley with Mary, one of the three daughters and co-heiresses of Sir Alexander Abernethy of Abernethy; and the Castle of Ballinbreich was, for several centuries, their principal residence.

In 1320, Sir Andrew signed the letter to the Pope, asserting the independency of Scotland. His descendant, Norman Lesley, son of George Earl of Rothes, was the principal actor in the murder of Cardinal Beaton, on the 29th May 1546. The following year, he surrendered the Castle of St Andrews to the French, and went into the service of their king. He gained great reputation in an engagement between that monarch and the Emperor, near Cambray, in 1554. He enjoyed his honour but a short time, for, being wounded, he died fifteen days afterwards.

Andrew, fourth Earl of Rothes, was buried within the old church. The grave is about the centre of the present burying-ground. John, sixth Earl of Rothes, was promoted in 1667 to the office of High Chancellor; and was created Duke of Rothes, Marquis of Balinbreich, &c. in 1680. He died the following year; and his body was conveyed, first from St Giles's Edinburgh (whither it had been privately carried) to Holyrood House, and afterwards to Leslie in Fife, (where his Grace had built a mansion,) with the greatest conceivable funereal pomp.

Sir James Balfour, Rector of this parish in 1561, was appointed



Lord President of the Court of Session, the Court then consisting of churchmen as well as laymen : he is unhappily stigmatized by Robertson as the most corrupt man of his age.

The Rev. John Wemyss, who was admitted to the parish in 1590, became Principal of St Leonard's College, St Andrews, in 1592.

The Rev. John Fleming, D. D. author of the "Philosophy of Zoology," and of the "History of British Animals," and now Professor of Natural Philosophy in King's College, Aberdeen, held this incumbency from 1811 to 1832.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners, with the extent of their properties, are as follows:—Lord Dundas, now (1838) created Earl of Orkney, 1808 acres ; Joseph Murray, Esq. of Ayton, 460 acres ; John Whyte Melville, Esq. of Mount Melville, 218 acres. The preceding includes, with the exception of 20 or 30 acres, the whole property of the parish.

*Parochial Registers.*—The register of baptisms and marriages, combining also the accounts of disbursements, and the minutes of session, commence 6th May 1697 ; and that of deaths and burials 1st March 1775. They seem in general to have been kept with care and regularity ; the only marked omission being in that of the session minutes from 1799 to 1822. It appears from these records, that the session, till at least nearly the middle of last century, often held meetings for prayer ; and administered discipline by private or public rebukes for profaneness, desecration of the Sabbath, drunkenness, quarrelling, and intemperate or opprobrious language, as well as for violations of the seventh commandment.

The following extracts are also worthy of insertion, as shewing, *inter alia*, the interest taken by the church, both in the welfare of individuals and in public objects. The sums are given in old Scotch money, 1701, May 18. This day read from the pulpit, the Acts of Assembly and Parliament against profaneness, and the Act of Assembly anent family worship by elders and deacons. 1702, January 4, Given for Gullet bridge, there having been a general collection appointed for that effect, L. 1.—1702, January 4, (and at many other dates,) given to the presbytery bursar, L. 4, 10s.—1703, March 2, given for repairing St Leonard's College, (St Andrews,) L. 1, 16s.—1704, September 24, given for the redeeming a man from slavery in Algeirs, L. 2.—1729, July 4, for building a church and to be a fund for a minister's stipend in the north of Scotland ; the place is Enzie (presbytery of Fordyce,) L. 5.—1729, December 6, for Enstar (Anstruther) harbor, L. 2.—1730, December 5, Given to David Fermer's daughter to buy a Bible, L. 1, 4s.—1750,

November 18, There was collected this day, in obedience to the Assembly's order, for building a church at Breslaw, in the province of Silesia, L. 10, 3s. 10d.

*Antiquities.*—The Castle of Ballinbreich lies in ruins near the western extremity of the parish, overhanging the river, and embosomed in a small plantation of trees. It is built of red sandstone, 150 feet long, and 70 broad, and without date, arms or inscription. Formerly, a garden lay to the south of the castle; an orchard to the east of the oak avenue; and fish ponds, and a swan pond in the plantations to the west of it. It was long the residence of the Earls of Rothes. But, first deserted, then sold to another lord, it has been suffered to go into decay. Nothing remains but bare or fallen walls, the ponds have been dried up, the garden destroyed, and many of the trees cut down. The plough has converted the *dulce* into the *utile*. Besides the few acres of trees surrounding the ruins, two chestnuts which formed part of the straight avenue leading to the castle, are still allowed to keep their station near the farm-house of Ballinbreich.

Close by the castle to the east, and within the remaining plantation, is Chapel-hill, where the foundations of a sacred edifice are still to be traced.

In Flisk Wood, at the opposite extremity of the parish, are low ruins, most probably those of a place of worship, and consisting of the apparent remains of the edifice, and of an enclosing wall. In enumerating the parishes, churches, and chapels in the deanery of Fife, in the eleventh year of King William, Sir Robert Sibbald mentions “Flisk cum capella.” Which of the two noticed above formed this capella, cannot now be ascertained.

Silver coins of Edward III. were turned up a few years ago, on the farm of East Flisk. They were given to Dr Fleming, and consisted of sixpences, shillings, and half-crown pieces. About the same time, on the hill side, and on the farms of East Flisk and Belhelvie, several rude stone coffins were discovered, with urns in them containing burnt bones. The urns were a mixture of clay and rotten rock, baked in the sun; and most of them fell to pieces on being exposed to the air. Burnt bones were also discovered in a cairn of stones on the top of Whirly Kip, (or rather, perhaps, Whit-law cap,) a conical rising ground on Fliskmill farm, between Lyndemus and Pittachop.

On Fliskmill Hill, are a few stones placed as the arms of a chair, and called St Muggin's Seat; St Muggin being probably a cor-



ruption of St Magridin. Tradition is silent regarding the occasions when this was made the place of the saint's meditations; but it was well chosen, from the noble and extensive view it commands of streams, and hills, and vales, for eliciting thought, and giving the freshness and sublimity of nature to the imaginings of the soul within.

*Modern Buildings.*—Not having any resident proprietors, we have unfortunately little to state on this subject. There is not a single mansion-house. We have but to notice the parish church. In 1790, the old building after standing, it is said, for 500 years, was pulled down, and the present small but neat edifice erected near the site of the former.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population at different periods has been as follows:—

In 1755, according to Dr Webster	318
1792, stated in last Statistical Account,	331
1801, according to the census,	300
1811, do. do.	318
1821, do. do.	301
1831, do. do.	286
1836, private register,	245
1837, do. do.	256

From this table, it appears that the population has diminished. The principal cause seems to have been, that neither proprietors nor tenants, some time ago, were sufficiently careful to repair or rebuild the cottages. Several have, in consequence, been pulled down, in different parts of the parish. The evil of so small a cottage population, on so great an extent of cultivated land, is now severely felt. And the wish at present is, on the part of the farmers at least, to have the number of cottages increased.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is	-	-	104
deaths,	-	-	12
marriages,	-	-	16

The vast disproportion between the numbers of births and deaths must be owing to the fact, that the relative number of farm-servants (who, of course, are chosen in the healthy and vigorous period of life) is great.

The average number of persons under 15 years of age,	-	-	100
betwixt 15 and 30,	-	-	65
30 and 50,	-	-	60
50 and 70,	-	-	30
upwards of 70,	-	-	3
The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards,	-	-	3
Number of unmarried men, bachelors, and widowers, upwards of 50 years of age,	-	-	5
women upwards of 45,	-	-	11
Number of families,	-	-	55
Average number of resident children in each family,	-	-	2
Number of inhabited houses,	-	-	55

Number of fatuous 2; and of blind 1. The last was occasioned by the small-pox.

The language spoken is the English.

The migratory habits of much of our agricultural population are by no means favourable to their moral and religious character, and prevent a permanent character from attaching to a parish like this, where so many belong to this class. With this qualification, it may be said that the people are respectable, cleanly in their habits, and enjoy in a reasonable degree the comforts and advantages of society.

The ordinary food of the peasants is oatmeal and potatoes, broth and bacon, the cottars keeping one or two pigs in the year. Wheaten bread is also used.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of males employed in agriculture is 59, including 7 farmers, 7 cottars, and 45 farm-servants. The number employed in manufactures is 12, all weavers, except 2, employed in making potato-flour. There are 2 smiths, 1 mason, 1 forester, 7 day-labourers, and 1 or 2 who often employ themselves in fishing. The men connected with the salmon stations, during the fishing season, do not in general belong to the parish.

Male servants, above 20 years old,	-	26
under 20,	-	19
Female servants,	-	18
Total,		63

#### *Agriculture.*—

The number of acres under cultivation is	-	2120
in natural pasture,	-	134
under wood,	-	264
Total,		2518

The greater part of the unreclaimed portion is on the face of Lyndemus and Fliskmill Hill. Patches of it might be cultivated, but it is more convenient for pasturage as it is. Eight acres, now appropriated and in wood, (on the farm of Logie,) once formed part of a common which stretched into the adjoining part of Abdie.

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of arable land is L. 1, 8s. per imperial acre. It is, in general, partly a money and partly a grain rent, paid according to the fiar prices, limited, however, in some cases, by a maximum, or by both a maximum and minimum.

*Rate of Wages.*—Farm-servants, in bothies, receive L. 10; 8 cwt. ( $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls Scotch,) oatmeal; 4 pints (1 pint Scotch) milk, and potatoes for supper, for one-half of the year. Those married have L. 8, house, garden of 300 square yards; milk and meal as



above ; and three cart load of potatoes or three lippies bounds *i. e.* about 300 square yards. The foreman has the same, except L. 12 instead of L. 8, and a "cow-keep," instead of an allowance of milk. Day-labourers have 1s. 6d. without victuals, but 2d. less in winter, and 2d. more in summer. Women receive 8d. without victuals. Reapers receive L. 1, 10s. with victuals, for the harvest ; binders have 10s. more. The harvest-home being now discontinued, each receives 1s. in lieu at the end of the harvest. Threaving, which, however, is not much practised, is at the rate of 3d. for twenty-four sheaves of oats or barley ; and 4d. for twenty-eight of wheat.

The price of an iron plough is L. 3, 12s. ; of a harrow, L. 1, 6s. ; of a double horse cart, L. 12 ; of a set of horse shoes, 3s. 4d. A mason receives 2s. 6d. a-day ; or for a dry dike, 8s. ; a cottage, L. 1, 10s. ; and a two-story house L. 2 the rood ; and for hewing freestone 3½d. the foot. An ordinary weaver makes 7s. or 8s. a-week ; and a woman wins 7d. a-day by winding the bobbins.

*Live-Stock.*—The common breed of cattle is the Fifeshire, crossed with the Forfarshire and Teeswater, but chiefly with the former. Sheep are seldom kept. This is a grain rather than a grazing or green crop part of the country,—the hardness of the soil not being so favourable to the expansion of the bulbous roots.

*Husbandry.*—The rotation of the crops is generally for six years, and in nearly the following order : On the low grounds, which are the richest and strongest, summer fallow or green crop, (turnips and potato,) wheat, peas, barley, grass, and oats. If peas are not sown, the grass remains for two years. On the lighter soils of the hill sides, in which wheat is rarely sown, green crop, barley, and grass for two years, barley and oats. A rotation of five years, which is sometimes adopted, may be as follows : Fallow or green crop, wheat, grass for two years, oats ; or, instead of two years in grass, barley and grass.

Much of the soil being naturally wet and marshy, and a good deal of it lying on till, draining has been greatly required. Much has been done in this respect, by the farmers from time to time ; and although more is still needed, most of the soil is now comparatively dry and in good condition. Stone-draining is that chiefly used. A little of the surface tile-draining was introduced last year, and seemingly with good effect.

Little could now be transferred from the unreclaimed land to the cultivated, much of it lying on steep slopes. And certainly the most ornamental, and perhaps also the most profitable, method

of laying it out, would be in wood. A considerable part of the low ground was reclaimed, only within the last forty years; and of the high ground, within a much later date.

The leases are for nineteen years, and seem fairly adjusted between the landlord and tenant.

The farm-buildings are generally good, though still susceptible of improvement. There is a considerable deficiency of enclosures, especially on the low grounds. They consist solely of stone dikes. Some have of late been added.

The introduction of bone-dust for turnip has been of great service, in the cultivation of the hill lands, rendering it so much more easy to apply manure to them. About sixteen bushels of bone-dust, (2s. per bushel,) mixed with eight of the ashes of burnt coal or turf, will serve for an acre, and a cart-load of this will cover about four acres. Animalized carbon has also been used for manure. Instead of eating off the turnip with sheep, it is found equally good to leave and plough down the shaws.

*Quarries.*—There is a quarry of red sandstone close by the river under Flisk Wood, and two of good clinkstone in other parts of the parish; but none are of any great importance.

*Fisheries.*—There are five or six stations for salmon-fishing. At some, the sweep-net is used, at others (chiefly the lower) the tut-net, with three or four men to a boat. Stake-nets would be more favourable for fishing, but are for the present interdicted.

The salmon are not caught in abundance, but are of excellent quality. The best seasons are in July and August, when, the rains being over, and the snow melted, the quantity of water in the river is diminished, and the boats get nearer the middle of the stream, and within the run of the fish. If there is much water in the river in the spawning season, the spawn is deposited too high on the banks; and if there follows a dry February, much of it is destroyed. The salmon fry, smoults as they are called, pass this from the beginning of March about three inches long, and are caught on their return, two or three months afterwards, as grilse, six inches or upwards in length, four, five, or six pounds in weight.\*

The seals are sometimes so audacious and cunning as to tumble over the net, seize a salmon, and make off with it.

There are two spirling stations, Flisk-point and Kincase, with

\* The following has been communicated on apparently good authority. A smolt was caught on its descent some miles up the river. A ring was inserted, and the little animal restored to the water. The same fish, identified by the ring, was again caught two months afterwards on its ascent, and weighed no less than 8 lbs.



two or three nets at each. The net used is trumpet-shaped, and eight yards long. Its mouth is fixed to poles placed in the current, and across the stream; and the fish are caught in the ebbing tide. They are sold from 1s. to 2s. 6d. the hundred, and being taken to Perth are despatched by the coaches, for the Edinburgh and Glasgow markets. A few are sent to Dundee. They spawn in April and May, when the fishing is discontinued, but they are good in November and some months afterwards, particularly in January and February.

*Produce.*—The following is the average gross amount of raw produce raised in the parish as nearly as can be ascertained, and at the average fair price for the last seven years.

	Acres.	Produce.	Price.	Value.
Wheat, -	288	824 qr.	L. 2, 6s. 8 $\frac{2}{3}$ d. the qr.	L. 1923
Barley, -	323	1230	L. 1, 7s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. ditto,	1673
Oats, -	334	1311	L. 1, 0s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. do.	1359
Peas, -	135	283	L. 1, 7s. 6d.	389
Potato, -	103	7500 cwt.	$\frac{2}{3}$ at 2s. and $\frac{1}{3}$ at 1s. the cwt.	625
Turnip, -	117		L. 5 per acre,	585
Hay cultivated,		6500 truss.	1s. 6d. the truss,	489
Pasture, -	431		L. 3 an ox pasture,	700
				<hr/> L. 7743

*Manufactures.*—A potato-flour manufactory has lately been erected on the farm of East Flisk. Two men and three women are employed in it. Their time of labour is the same with that of other servants on the farm; and their occupation seems by no means prejudicial to health. The potatoes are grated down by a rough revolving cylinder kept in motion by a steam engine of two horse power. The machine is the fruit of Mr Morton's own mechanical ingenuity.

*Navigation.*—Although the Tay, in its main channel, sweeps along the length of the parish, it is of little avail for shipping, from want of a pier. Coal, tile, stone, and slate are occasionally landed, but grain cannot be shipped.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—The nearest market-towns are Newburgh, Cupar-Fife, and Dundee, distant from the church, six, eight, and (including the passage across the Tay,) ten miles respectively. All these, especially Cupar, are frequented by the farmer, for the sale of agricultural produce.

There is not a village in the parish. The nearest approximation to one, is the farm-town of Glenduckie, consisting of the farm

house and twelve cottages, seven of which are occupied by the farm-servants.

*Means of Communication.*—The parish is deficient in proper and convenient means of communication. The nearest post-offices are in Newburgh and Cupar. The same must be said regarding public conveyances. There is no turnpike, but the statute labour road between Woodhaven and Newburgh, runs through the length of the parish, distant about a quarter of a mile from the river. The nearest piers are at Balmerino and Newburgh. The steamers between Dundee and Perth pass and repass daily for a great part of the year, but there are no proper and regular means of getting on board.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is beautifully situated on the banks of the Tay, one mile from the eastern, three from the western, and between four and five from the south-western extremity of the parish. Glenduckie, containing, small as it is, about one-fifth of the population, lies four miles from the church; and Dunbog church being close at hand, the inhabitants generally attend divine service there.

The church was built in 1790,\* and is in good repair, affording accommodation for 153 sitters. It was seated by the heritors, and portioned off to the farmers; and the seats are given by them to their servants and cottars. The sittings at the communion table are left unallocated.

The manse was built in 1811. The glebe, exclusive of house, offices, and garden ground, is about 5 acres imperial, and might rent for L. 7. The stipend is 10 chalders, 8 bolls Scotch of grain, and L. 10, 7s. 2d. in money, L. 1, 13s. 4d. of which is grass-money; the average for the last four years is L. 149, and for the first three of these only L. 141. There is no separate allowance for communion elements.

The number of families connected with the Established Church is 51, comprehending 247 individuals; and four families, comprehending nine individuals, attend Dissenting and Seceding places of worship. The average number of communicants in the Established Church is 120.

*List of the Ministers of the Parish from 1561.*—Those from 1561 to 1700, are given from a recently published "Catalogue of the Ministers in the Synod of Fife, from the Reformation in 1560 to the year 1700;" the rest are from the Presbytery Records.

Mr (Sir) James Balfour, "persoune of Flisk," 1561. Mr Robert

\* From about this time the use of the tent on sacramental occasions seems to have been discontinued.



Paterson, 1567. He had also the charge of the Kirks of Dunbog and Creich, where readers officiated. Mr Peter Watson, 1586. Mr John Wemyss, admitted September 1590, became Principal of St Leonard's College in 1562. Mr John Makgill, 1613, conformed to Presbytery 1638; died 22d March 1659. Mr William Myles, admitted May 3d 1660; conformed to Episcopacy 1662, died 1694. Vacant from 1694 to 1697. Mr William Thompson, admitted May 6, 1697; died in April 1752. Mr William Gourlay, March 6, 1753, died 16th October 1780. Mr William Gourlay, ordained to Flisk, 20th September 1781, died 2d March 1810. Mr John Fleming, D. D. removed from Bressay, 18th April 1811, translated to Clackmannan in October 1832. Mr George Marshall, translated from Bressay, 7th June 1833.

There are no Societies; but there have been occasional collections in the church for religious and charitable objects. These have been liberal: but no average can with fairness yet be given, as it is only within these few years, they have been at all regular.

*Education.*—There is but one school, the parochial—situated a mile to the west of the church, and more nearly in the centre of the population than is the latter. The branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, grammar, and Latin. Reading, 2s. per quarter; reading and writing, 2s. 6d.; reading, writing, and arithmetic, 3s.; Latin, 5s. The teacher enjoys the legal amount of accommodation. The salary is the maximum, L. 34, 4s. 4d., and the average amount of school fees, L. 12.

All can read and write who are of age to do so,—attention by parents to the education of their children being general.

There is no parish library; but, for the last few years, L. 5, from the Donaldson fund, \* has been annually expended on prizes for the parochial and Sabbath schools, and greatly with the view of forming small family libraries among the parishioners. An arrangement is contemplated, by which part of this sum may yet go to the formation of a parish library.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of paupers nearly averages 4, receiving from L. 1 to L. 2, 10s. each per annum; or, instead of money, meal, varying from 2 to 4 pecks a month. Average collections for the last ten years L. 6, 12s.; average for proclamation for ditto, 4s.; interest on money L. 3, 8s.; total, L. 10, 4s. Within this period, there has been but one legacy for behoof of the poor, L. 10. The deficit in the funds has hitherto been

\* Mr Donaldson had the farm of Logie, in this parish, for some time.

met by drawing upon the principal in the bank, and by donations from the heritors.

*Fairs, &c.*—There are no fairs, inns, or alehouses in the parish.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the fuel used. It is chiefly brought in vessels to the beach from the north of England, at 13s. 6d., or from the banks of the Forth, at 11s. 6d. the ton. Sometimes, however, it is driven from the Balbirnie pit, twelve miles off, or from Newburgh and Balmerino, as sloops will not discharge their cargo on the strand during winter. The farmer chiefly consumes English, the cottager Scotch coal.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was drawn up in 1792, the population of the parish has decreased from 331 to 256. The number of farms is also less, the parish being almost entirely partitioned at present into seven large farms, from 190 to 490 imperial acres each. Bothies have been partially introduced. The extent of cultivated ground is greater by fully more than one-half of what it was in 1792, having increased from 1387 to 2120 imperial acres. Sheep are not now regularly kept; at a former period, they were. The breed was small. Fed on the natural pasture during the day, they were enclosed in “tathe-folds” during the night. These folds, changed, every few days, for the sake of manuring the ground, were built by the shepherd. The fence was a turf dike, which was thrown down when the ploughing season came.

The plough, attended by a driver, as well as managed by a ploughman, was drawn, in winter, by four cattle and two horses; and in the end of spring, when they went twice to the field in the day, by two cattle and two horses. The oldest cattle were sold to the grazier after the barley-seed was sown, and, being seven or eight years old, were of a good size. The plough itself was a rude instrument nine or ten feet long, all made of wood except the culter, sock, and “reeshoe.” The wood was supplied by the farmer. The iron was worth about 6s. The carpenter and smith were not paid for each job, but received so much corn in the year for doing the work on the farm.\* The ploughman was generally a married man, and had one or one and a half Scotch acres, about one and a quarter or one and three quarters imperial acres. On the produce of this, he kept his cow, which he had to purchase for

\* On one farm the carpenter received six firlots of oats.



himself, during the winter. In summer, it grazed along with the farmer's own cattle. The goadmen, who were young, and also the horse herd, who was generally older, lived in their master's house.

About seventy years ago, the crops raised were not so varied as now, and the system of agriculture was different ; oats, barley, and pease were what were generally sown. There was no cultivated grass, and no turnip or potato. Turnip was first introduced by Mr Barclay on Pittachop farm, about fifty-eight years ago. By 1792 (as appears from the former Account) a considerable quantity of wheat was grown, about 190 acres ; but now, it has increased to 290 acres. A field of 15 acres contained barley and oats, for twenty-two years in succession.

At the middle of last century, or even later, the rental does not seem to have been from one-tenth to one-sixth of what it is now ; and even forty years ago, probably, not much above one-fourth. This, however, is to some extent only apparent, as the nominal value of many other things has undergone a corresponding relative change. Part of the rent was paid in grain and meal. A house, now the farm-house of Fliskmill, was formerly the giral for the Ballinbreich estate. . The meal would sometimes accumulate to 600 cwt. before it was sold.

The first two-story farm house was built only sixty-one years ago (in 1776.) All the accommodation the farmer had before, was his " but " and his " ben."

The chief improvements of which the parish seems susceptible, are increased draining and enclosing ; the erection of a greater number of cottages ; planting the uncultivated lands ; and the erection of a pier for the shipment of grain and the easier landing of lime and coal, &c. and for rendering the Perth and Dundee steamers available for the convenience of the inhabitants.

*Drawn up July 1837. Revised October 1838.*

# PARISH OF ANSTRUTHER WESTER.\*

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

PARISH VACANT.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—ANSTRUTHER WESTER, a small parish in the presbytery of St Andrews, is situated on the Frith of Forth, about six miles to the westward of Fifeness. The origin of the name is uncertain. It is not known whether the family of Anstruther, who are the superiors, gave their name to it, or took theirs from it. In the former Statistical Account, it is said to be derived from the Celtic word *Struther*, signifying “a low marshy place;” and, as generally happens, something in the situation is found or fancied to correspond with the etymology; “for although the site of the town and church, in a hollow at the mouth of a small rivulet, is now tolerably dry, there are proofs that it must at one time have merited such an appellation.” We have our doubts as to this derivation; but are in want of any thing better to offer. The parish is bounded on the south by the sea for about half a mile; on the east, by Anstruther Easter; on the north, by Carnbee and Kilrenny; and on the west, by Pittenweem. From the narrow point of land occupied by the town, church and churchyard, the parish, which is of very irregular breadth and form, extends upwards of 2 miles to the north-west, and contains about 600 acres, the greater part of which is arable. There may be about 10 acres of grass-lands, upon eight of which the burgesses have the privilege of pasturage, and of cutting turf, upon payment of a very small sum into the funds of the burgh.

*Isle of May.*—The Isle of May, which lies about six miles south, is generally supposed to belong to Anstruther Wester; but

\* Drawn up by the Rev. George Milligan, Elie, from notes left by the Rev. Dr Carstairs, late Minister of the parish, and from valuable information communicated to him by Matthew F. Conolly, Esq. town-clerk of Anstruther; Mr Thomas Williamson, tenant, Grange-Muir; and Mr George Taylor, schoolmaster of Anstruther Wester, in their respective departments.



it is also claimed by Crail. It is about a mile long, and three-quarters of a mile broad. On it there is a well of fine water and a small lake. It affords excellent pasturage for sheep: and the *May mutton* is famous in all quarters. "A very intelligent farmer, who has dealt in sheep above thirty years, and has had them from all the different corners of Scotland, says, that he knows no place so well adapted for meliorating the wool as the Island of May. He adds, that the fleeces of the coarsest woolled sheep that ever came from the worst pasture in Scotland, when put on the Island of May, in the course of one season, become as fine as satin." It is frequented by a great variety of sea fowl, such as kittiewakes, scarts, dunters, gulls, sea-pyets, marrots, &c. One side of the rock is composed of stately basaltic columns. There is a lighthouse on the island, which was originally built in the time of Charles I. by Alexander Cunningham, laird of Barns. It is said, that, as the unfortunate architect of the town was returning from the isle, he was drowned in a storm supposed to have been raised by some still more unhappy old women, who were in consequence burnt as witches. At first the light was only a fire of coals; but the property having, in the course of time, passed into the hands of the Duchess of Portland, as heiress of the late Major-General John Scott of Balcomie, it was purchased from her by the Commissioners of Northern Lights, who in 1816 rebuilt the tower, and fitted it up with reflectors and oil lights. On the island are the ruins of a priory, which formerly belonged to the Abbey of Pittenweem, and of a chapel dedicated to St Adrian. Population of the island, 2 males and 10 females.

*Climate.*—The climate, on the whole, cannot be considered as unhealthy. In the spring the east winds prevail, and occasionally what is called an easterly *haar* sets in; during the continuance of which, the atmosphere is by no means very comfortable. Some of the heaviest gales that visit the coast, come from the south-west in winter. There is no epidemical disease which can be said to be peculiar to the parish; and the cases of longevity are rather numerous in proportion to the population. Within these few years, several have died betwixt eighty and ninety years of age; two at the age of ninety-four; one aged ninety-five. In 1832, while cholera was very prevalent and fatal in the immediate neighbourhood, there was not a single case that occurred within its bounds.

*Hydrography.*—The Frith of Forth bounds the parish for about half a mile on the south; and a small burn called the Dreel, or

more commonly Anstruther Burn, divides it from Anstruther Easter. A tradition prevails that there was once a salmon-fishery in this rivulet; "from the smallness of it, this does not appear very probable." Nothing of the kind exists at present; but yet, in former times, the fact may have been as stated; and both the seals of the corporation, the old and the new one, bear testimony to it,—the former exhibiting a drave-boat well manned,—the latter three salmon crossed. The form of a fish of the same kind also floats upon the top of the church spire, in place of a weather-cock.\*

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The lithology of the parish belongs to the carboniferous formation, and consists of, 1st, the inferior coal measures; 2d, the carboniferous limestone; 3d, the upper or true coal measure. If a line be drawn from the shore at the point where St Monance and Pittenweem parishes meet, to the north-east angle of this parish, it will mark the course of the carboniferous limestone which divides the upper from the lower coal measures.

1. The under coal measures consist of alternations of reddish silicious sandstones, sometimes gritty, shales, fire-clay, and thin unworkable seams of coal. The shales contain ironstone in bands, and septaria; and not unfrequently present a slaty bituminous character, not unlike to the older slate clay. The whole measures are full of vegetable remains, which, if not of so frequent occurrence, are at least in far better preservation than those of the upper coal measures. Thin beds of shell-limestone and shale, with shells, are found subordinate to the general formation. Excellent sections of these are exposed along the seaward boundary of the parish.

2. The carboniferous limestone, which is nowhere brought to the surface in this parish, is exposed along the shore, east of St Monance, and bears in the direction already noticed. This has been fully proved by the mining operations carried on west of Pittenweem. It consists of four beds, varying from 3 to 10 feet

\* In connexion with the salmon fishery, the following story is told:—A gentleman residing in the burgh, induced probably by the above-mentioned report, placed a stake-net in the creek, with the hope of securing "a haul," and to his great joy succeeded in capturing one good salmon. But it was generally supposed that a well-known wag in the place had secretly deposited the aforesaid salmon there, to furnish matter for a joke with his friend. For, except the solitary fish mentioned, he had not the pleasure of seeing any more salmon in his net. The story tells well enough; but we should like to know where the wag got so very opportunely possession of the live salmon, not one being taken on the whole coast.



in thickness, of excellent white limestone, alternating with shale and slaty sandstone. It contains all the shells, corallines, and other organisms peculiar to this formation. Between the lowest bed and the under coal measure, many beds of slate and shale appear, in which thin beds of blue limestone, with encrinites, occur. These seem to mark the dawn of this truly marine deposit.

3. Superincumbent on the limestone are the true coal measures. These consist of the usual alternates of sandstone, shale, ironstone, fire-clay and coals, with subordinate calcareous strata. The coal not being worked in this parish, it can only be judged of from the workings in the neighbourhood of Pittenweem. There it consisted of seventeen beds, making an aggregate thickness of 82 feet 6 inches. Of course, only a few of the lower coals can make their appearance in the parish of Anstruther, as they crop out to the eastward. Faults and dislocations of various kinds derange them so frequently, that it is impossible to state with certainty what may be found to the north-west of this parish. This, however, we know, that two seams are wrought at Balcaskie; and as the dip is moderate, and these not apparently the lowest, the cropping of still lower seams must lie between Balcaskie and Grange-muir. In the northern division of the parish, the dip is about  $10^{\circ}$  to west north-west. In the southern, the dip is more irregular, the strata being forced up into bosses, or thrown down in troughs. The main boss, and in fact the only one, may be stated as having its centre in the harbour of East Anstruther, from which point the dip is quaquaversal, until, for a mile inland, where they flatten out and assume the regular inclination to west north-west. So evident and unbroken is this rounding of the strata, that the high ledge of Billowness, west of Anstruther, rounds and again makes its appearance at Cellardyke harbour, a distance of nearly two miles. Two faults occur west of the Billowness, which derange the strata for a short distance, throwing them up to the north-east, about four or six fathoms. There are no heterogeneous veins; but heterogeneous veins occasioned by infiltration, occur in the Billowness rock. This rock is ferruginous sandstone, traversed by cross fissures, which are found filled with arenaceous iron oxide from the stone. The water percolating and acting on the inherent iron has produced this uncommon appearance.

From the extent of the rock measures laid bare by the sea, a very excellent field is afforded to the oryctologist. Indeed, to few points of the country, could the student repair with greater advan-

tage. Here he might observe the progressive developement and changes which took place in the animal and vegetable economy, during the carboniferous era. The following is a list of a few of the more remarkable fossil organisms, animal and vegetable.

*Animal.*

Fish scales, teeth, and coprolites.  
Fishes of the Ganoida and Placoida race have been discovered.  
Shells of the Unio, Mytilus, Anodonta, &c.  
Encrinites, and various corallines.  
Shells and other marine exuviae, not yet described.

*Vegetable.*

Stigmaria, numerous, very fine varieties.  
Sigillaria, plentiful, do. do.  
Cycadeæ, several, do. do.  
Cactæ, }  
Epiphylla, } These, or species resembling these more than the Stigmaria.  
Euphorbia, }  
Lepidodendra, numerous.  
Ulodendra, frequent.  
Calamites, numerous gigantic specimens.  
Equiseta, exceedingly plentiful.  
Sphenopoteris, do. do.  
Cyllopteris, very beautiful and rare varieties.  
Meuropteris, do. do. do.  
Sphenophylla, plentiful.  
Lycopodites, do.  
Carpophyllites, several have been discovered.  
Cannophyllites, exceedingly abundant.  
Graminæ, do. do.

Many other species occur, and all in excellent preservation, owing to the ferruginous indurated nature of the rocks. They are easily freed from the matrix, and are every way worthy of the attention of the fossil collector.

The only ore worthy of notice is that of iron. It occurs imbedded in the shale and slate-clay in the form of thin bands and septaria. This ore is an argillaceous carbonate of iron, yielding from 30 to 60 per cent. of iron. The septaria are in general the purest, though sometimes containing carbonate of lime, iron pyrites, coprolites, and other impurities. It has never been mined, but is frequently gathered by the shore, as washed out from the disintegrated strata, and sells at from 9s. to 12s. for 24 cwt. It is carried to Newcastle at little expense, in ballast bottomed vessels. Immediately on the confines of the parish, at Pittenweem, iron ore is quarried from the shale to a considerable extent during low water.

The rocks which compose the district being wholly sedimentary, the parish presents no field for the mineralogist. The simple ingredients of sandstone, shale, fire-clay and coal are too well known to require individual descriptions.



The superficial accumulations are confined exclusively to diluvial clay with boulders, river silt, and peat-moss. The first of these entirely overlies the true rock measures, from one end of the parish to the other. It varies from six to fourteen feet in thickness, is of a yellowish or blue tenacious clay, with boulders of all sizes, from that of a pebble to blocks of several tons weight. These consist chiefly of primitive greenstone, basalt, granite, syenite, porphyry, gneiss, and other primordial rocks. They must owe their origin to some very general and potent agency, as none of these rocks occur *in situ* within a distance of eighty or ninety miles. The transporting power seems to have been of long duration, and to have flowed from the west north-west, or nearly so.

On the south of the Dreel, this clay, from southern exposure and long cultivation, has been superficially reduced to a fine loam, capable of bearing a system of cropping. To the north, it is still to a certain degree cold and retentive; but from the system of draining pursued, and careful rotation, it bids fair to rival the southern division in fertility.

Silt occurs along the valley of the Dreel, from where it enters the parish to its junction with Carnbee Burn. Beyond this, the united streams have cut for themselves a deep glen or gill, till their waters fall into the Frith. Before the erosion of this glen, the valley must have formed a lake or swamp, into which *debris*, &c. was washed, which, in conjunction with the growth and decay of aquatic plants, would form the present silt. So soon as the drainage glen was sufficiently deep, the waters disappearing would leave something similar to what we now find, until rendered thoroughly and permanently useful by human industry. This silt is, in some places, of great depth, is exceedingly fertile, and might with advantage be carted to the barer districts as a compost.

During land-floods, the Dreel, which rises in the high lands of Carnbee, still brings down a very considerable quantity of mud, which, if any recipient hollow lay in its way, would still form extensive beds of silt.

In the north-west parts of the parish, and immediately west of Grangemuir House, a peat-moss existed, which is now planted or converted into arable land. This deposit occupies the head of the valley or swamp, the very place most favourable to the production of those plants whose continual increase and decay went to its formation. Fourteen years ago, when draining and digging this moss for use, the inhabitants of the district frequently discovered

trunks of trees, horns, and other organic remains, peculiar to such deposits.

*Mines.*—There are no mines of any description in the parish, though coals have been worked a few hundred yards from the boundaries, at Waterriggs and Balcaskie. During summer 1838, borings for coal were made by Lord William K. Douglas ; but thin seams only were passed through. These trials seem to have been made too far to the eastward, as the workable seams of the St Monance basin must crop out considerably farther west. If coals shall ever be discovered in this parish, it must be between Grangemuir and Balcaskie, and subjacent to the two Kellie seams now in process of working.

There are no quarries in the parish of any note. Stones for common purposes are quarried by the sea shore ;—those for finer purposes being brought from a distance.

A considerable quantity of ironstone is to be found along the shores of the burgh, which the magistrates let for 1s. per ton ; and it is afterwards quarried and collected and shipped for Newcastle. Copper ore is also found on the shore nearly opposite the manse. There are appearances of coal in the parish at different places ; and the name given to some acres lying north-east from the glebe, viz. the Cowpits or coal-pits, seem to indicate that that mineral had formerly been wrought here. Last winter, many of the inhabitants got liberty from the magistrates to dig coal at the sea shore, below flood-mark, and supplied themselves with many cart-loads.

“ A narrow stripe of flat land above the shore has evidently been, at a remote period, covered by the sea, as it is composed entirely of sea sand and shells, with a very thin covering of vegetable mould ; and the ocean is again fast approaching to its ancient boundary, every succeeding storm making new encroachments upon the land, in defiance of all that has been done by man to guard it against the restless and resistless element. A circumstance worthy of remark is, that the sea is advancing upon a *lower level*, the smooth bed of shells and sand over which its waters formerly rolled, being now elevated some feet above its surface. This may be observed in the face of every break amongst the coast here ; and the writer does not know how the fact can be reconciled with the modern theory, that the channel of the German Ocean is gradually filling up, and its waters consequently rising and overspreading tracts of land on some parts of its shores.”



*Botany.*—The study of the plants peculiar to any of these soils is rendered difficult by the universality of cultivation. The banks and waste parts of the Dreel valley seem favourable to the following:—*Veronica chamædrys*, *Tanacetum vulgare* (extremely abundant,) *Geranium*, several species, *Lotus corniculatus*, *Alchemilla vulgaris*, *Galium verum*, *Primula vulgaris*, *Achillæa millefolium*, *Myosotis palustris*, (abundant,) &c. At the Billowness are found, *Campanula rotundifolia*, *Helianthemum vulgare*, *Thymus serpyllum*, *Silene inflata*, *Tormentilla erecta*, *Anagallis arvensis*, &c. Rare plants are also discovered by the shore, but this is perhaps more owing to marine influence than peculiarity of soil.

*Zoology.*—The animals which delight in peculiar soils are not numerous or well-marked, except in the case of the silt before-mentioned. There, perhaps, more than in any place of Scotland, do water-rats of great size abound. They seem innumerable. In going along the banks of the stream, where the silt occurs, one's attention is arrested at almost every step by a large rat plunging into the water from among the rank grass, and swimming along with wonderful rapidity, until it disappears in one of the holes with which the banks are thickly perforated. A strong coincidence to this occurs in the case of Mugdrum Island in the Tay, which is wholly composed of silt. It was so infested with rats, that all plans failed of keeping them down, till Dutch cats were imported, which was found efficient.

*“Migratory Birds.*—The woodcock, fieldfare, and curlew, visit the coast regularly in the winter, and the Bohemian jay is sometimes seen in the neighbourhood; as are also wild geese, when the higher grounds are covered with snow. The swallow, cuckoo, water-wagtail, and plover, make their appearance in summer. The early arrival of the woodcock and Bohemian jay, indicates the severity of the winter on the continent; while the cuckoo's visit is a sure mark that fine weather may be soon expected.”\*

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Lord William Douglas of Dunino; Robert Bruce, Esq. of Grangemuir; Sir Windham C. Anstruther of Anstruther and Carmichael, Bart.; Matthew F. Conolly, Esq.; the Sea-Box Society; and the Burgh. All are resident except Robert Bruce, Esq. and Sir W. C. Anstruther. Lord William Douglas has a handsome modern house at Grangemuir, built originally by the late Mr Bruce, and greatly

\* Last Statistical Account.

enlarged since it came into his Lordship's possession. The grounds about it have lately been laid out anew with much taste. The place altogether is one of the most elegant in the country, and might form a suitable residence to any gentleman or nobleman in the kingdom. The town-hall, in which the magistrates and council hold their meetings, deserves also to be mentioned as a large and handsome room.

*Session Records.*—The earliest entry in the session records, as possessed by the present schoolmaster, is in 1651. One or two short extracts from them may be interesting. It would appear from some items mentioned at this time (1651,) that the town had had a rather unceremonious visit from the “Inglis.” Under the date of 16th September 1651, it is said, “paid for ane—to hold ye sand-glass ye ould being plundered by ye ‘Inglis.’” And again, on the 7th October following, it is said, “paid to Matt Thomson for drying ye ould bybell, which was cast in ye sea be ye ‘Inglis,’ yn ye towne was plundered.”

“5th September 1689.—The whilk day Mr Thomas Auchinleck, minister of Anstruther Wester, was discharged by the Lords of yr Majesty's Privy-Council from exercising the office of the ministry in this congregation, for not reading the proclamation, and for not praying for King William and Queen Mary; and the church was declared vacant by ane sent from the presbytery of Saint Andrews and Cupar to that effect.

“8th September 1689.—Mr John Law, a Presbyterian minister, preached in the kirk, and intimated the proclamation.

“15th April 1691.—Mr Hardie preached,—finding no objections against seventeen elders, admitted them.

“May 1, 1700.—“The session appoints aney three elders to clear accounts with the schoolmaster, and pay what is due to him by the session against Witsunday next; and likeways informe him, that they have no design to keep any schoolmaster nor precentor, both upon account of the indisposition of the minister and the poverty of the place.” And on the 29th of the same month it is said,—“This day Mr David Ballingall, schoolmaster, precentor, and session-clerk, did dimit.” The schoolmaster's salary at this time stated at L. 16, 13s. 0d. Scots money.

“February 1, 1701.—Mr William Hardie, minister of Crail, preached. Collected for Andrew Simson, skipper in Dysert, and his company, who are slaves in Algiers, L. 16, 00, 00.

*Antiquities*—“At the west end of the town there is a large



mound called the *Chester-Hill*, in the middle of which is a fine well. Two or three years ago, in digging on the side of this mound a foundation for a house, two skeletons were found in the most perfect preservation, at a small distance from each other. They were inclosed in a kind of coffin, consisting of a large stone at each end and side.\* In the church there is the half of a stone coffin,—the other half is on the Island of May. It is reported to be the coffin of St Adrian, who had a monastery on the isle just mentioned, and is said to have been killed during an incursion of the Danes. There is no certainty, however, that the tradition is correct.

### III.—POPULATION.

The number of the inhabitants of the parish does not seem to be so great as it was in ancient times. Like most of the other towns on the east coast of Fife, the burgh, since the Union, has fallen greatly into decay, and the population appears also to have decreased, in consequence of the losses sustained in the civil wars during the reign of Charles I. The people, in general, were zealous Covenanters; and many of them fell in the battle of Kilsyth. Besides the disaster in the temporary failures of their fishing, Anstruther shared the fate of its neighbours about the year 1670, by an inundation of the sea, which destroyed or choked up the harbour, washed away the bulwarks, and rendered many of the houses unsafe to dwell in. An inundation of a similar kind happened about the end of the seventeenth century, when nearly a third of the town seems to have been swept away. A long street, called the Fore Street, was totally destroyed. Scarce a vestige of it remains. The rock on which the town-house once stood is covered by the sea every spring tide, when it also washes the street where the principal houses of the burgh were situated. By these means the town has been greatly reduced, and the baptisms, which about 200 years ago, as appears from the session records, were from twenty to thirty a year, are at present very few in number. Now, however, the scale seems to have turned; and not from any outward circumstances, but from the natural tendency of the population to increase, a slow but gradual advance in numbers is taking place.

The population in time of first Statistical Account,	-	370
1811,	-	405
1831,	-	430

\* Last Statistical Account.

Males,	-	-	-	-	-	191
Females,	-	-	-	-	-	239
Number of families,	-	-	-	-	-	105
Of these employed in agriculture,	-	-	-	-	-	21
in trade and manufactures,	-	-	-	-	-	28
Other families,	-	-	-	-	-	56
Males above twenty years,	-	-	-	-	-	97
Of these there are land occupiers having servants,	-	-	-	-	-	3
Do. having no servants,	-	-	-	-	-	2
Labourers,	-	-	-	-	-	20
Tradesmen (all weavers,)	-	-	-	-	-	8
Retail and handicraft,	-	-	-	-	-	34
Clergy, clerks, professional educated men and capitalists,	-	-	-	-	-	5
Labourers not agricultural,	-	-	-	-	-	7
All other males of twenty years,	-	-	-	-	-	18
Female servants,	-	-	-	-	-	18
Average of births about	-	-	-	-	-	5 or 6
marriages,	-	-	-	-	-	4

No register of deaths is kept.

*Occupations of the Traders and Handicraftsmen.*—Blacksmith, 1; slater, 1; masons, 6; carpenters, 8; sawyers, 4; linen-dra-per, 1; fish-dealer, 1; millers, 2; inn-keeper, 1; shoemakers, 6; shop-keepers, 3; weavers, 8. Inhabited houses, 62; building, 1; houses uninhabited, 3.

Lord William K. Douglas, brother of the present Marquis of Queensberry, is the only person of noble rank residing in the pa-rish; but almost all the other heritors have land to the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards.

The number of families being 105, we have, making allowance for those who have no children or are unmarried, about four as the average number of children in each family.

*Character, &c. of the People.*—The inhabitants of the town and parish resemble very much in character those of the other villages on the east coast. Judging from the session records of former pe-riods, there must be a great improvement in point of morals. We may not witness the same appearance of zeal which entitled their forefathers to the appellation of the “Whigs of Fife;” but it would be wrong not to admit that much attention is paid to out-ward propriety of conduct, and that a regular and becoming at-tendance is given to the ordinances of religion. Habits of clean-liness are on the increase. Altogether, the people enjoy, in a rea-sonable degree, the comforts and advantages of society; and are, or, at least, before new notions were put into their heads, were, con-tented with their situation and circumstances.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains only about 600 acres. Al-most the whole of it is arable. Near the sea, the soil is either a



black loam or a light sand mixed with shells, both of which, though shallow, are very fertile. In the higher grounds, there is some light soil, but the greater part of it is a deep clay, which yields considerable crops in favourable weather. About 25 acres are covered with wood.

*Rent of Land.*—In the landward part of the parish, the rent varies from L. 2 to L. 3 per acre; but the Burgh acres, or those lying near the town, are let at a much higher rate. Some of them have been held on lease for seven years at L. 8 per Scotch acre, so that the lessee of an acre, alongst with a house and yard at L. 2, is duly qualified to be a registered elector. On these lands, five imperial quarters of barley have been raised from half an acre; and upon one acre, there have been produced ten tons of carrots, which are worth about L. 3, 10s. per ton. The average rent may be L. 3, 10s. per acre.

Rent of grazing a cow or ox per annum, L. 3.

*Wages.*—Wages of farm-servants for the year, when boarded in the house, L. 11. If they happen to be married men, the same wages are given, together with a house, six bolls and a half of oat-meal, a Scotch pint of milk per day, in addition to which they have half a boll of potatoes planted. Day labourers receive in summer 1s. 6d. per day, in harvest more, and in winter 1s. 2d. or 1s. 4d. Female servants have L. 6 a year, with board.

*Leases, &c.*—The general duration of leases is nineteen years, —a term which seems to be considered as one of the most advantageous both for landlord and tenant. The houses of the farmers and the steadings are all that could be wished. The common breed of cattle reared in the neighbourhood is the Fife.

*Fisheries.*—The fish frequenting this part of the coast are cod, ling, turbot, halibut, haddocks, skate, flounders, lobsters, crabs, herrings, and occasionally mackarel. Many thousands of dog-fish are at times driven on shore by storms, and carried away for manure. In the former Statistical Account of the parish, it is mentioned, that lobsters were the only fish sent from this neighbourhood to the London market. Now, however, great quantities of salted cod are sent thither; also smoked, or, as they are called, Finnan haddocks, together with abundance of fresh fish, are daily, in their seasons, transported to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Cupar, &c. from the adjoining towns of Cellardyke, Easter Anstruther, and Pittenweem, as will be more particularly mentioned in the accounts of these parishes. Last year, a greater quantity of

herrings were taken on this coast than at any other fishing station in Scotland.

Anstruther Wester has no direct share in this profitable traffic; the harbour not admitting ships of any burden, and being inconvenient even for boats. So that none now belong to it except two or three of small dimensions, kept for the summer amusement of their owners. There are no fishermen in this parish, and although one of the fish-curers, who carries on a pretty extensive trade, resides and is a burghess in the burgh, yet his curing and drying houses are situated in Anstruther Easter.

While on this subject, a fish-pond here may be mentioned as a curiosity. It is of considerable length and breadth, and 14 feet in depth, and was dug out of the solid rock a few years ago, at no little trouble and expense, by the late Captain James Black, R. N. in the garden of his marine villa. The pond communicates with the sea by means of a small passage bored through the rock, so that its water rises and falls with the tide. It is stocked with cod, turbot, and flounders; a few lobsters and crabs were also introduced, but these carried on such a cruel and incessant warfare against their more defenceless neighbours in the pond, that the captain was obliged to exterminate them. The fish are very tame, and flock toward the person who feeds them, like poultry in a barn-yard. Of course, they are too great favourites to be caught for gracing the table; but they may be useful in giving us more insight into the nature and habits of the finny tribe.

*Produce.*—It is difficult to get any accurate knowledge of the amount of raw produce raised in the parish, but as nearly as that can be ascertained, it may be as follows:

Produce of grain of all kinds, whether cultivated for food of man or of the domestic animals, about	L. 2000
Of potatoes, turnips, cabbages, carrots, and other plants cultivated in the fields for food,	1630
Of hay,	300
Which, with some other miscellaneous produce, may amount in all to about	4000

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Burgh.*—Anstruther Wester is a royal burgh, and, before the time of the Reform Bill, used to join with Pittenweem, Anstruther Easter, Kilrenny, and Crail, in sending a Member to Parliament. Originally it was erected into a burgh of barony in 1554, but holds its charter of incorporation, as a royal burgh, from James VI. in 1587. It is governed by a chief magistrate, two bailies, town-clerk, treasurer, and eleven councillors, and has a revenue of about L. 70 per annum, which arises chiefly from land. There are also five or



six acres of town's common, which is occupied in summer as pasturage for horses and cows belonging to the inhabitants, at the rate of 1s. 8d. of grass-mail for each beast per night. Owing to the smallness of the population, it is one of those burghs which have not, as yet, been affected by the late Reform Bill. The municipal authorities still continue to be appointed according to the old system, under which, notwithstanding all its alleged corruption and abuse, the corporation lands have been preserved entire; not an acre having been alienated since the issuing of the royal grant in its favour, upwards of 250 years ago.

The population of the burgh is almost co-extensive with that of the parish. There cannot be above thirty or forty people in the country. At one time, a considerable trade appears to have flourished in Anstruther Wester. But from the causes already alluded to, it has entirely disappeared. No vessels or even fishing-boats belong to the place,—the only business of any kind carried on being that which is necessary to supply the wants of the limited population. No regular police is required; there are, however, twelve constables who may be called out on any emergency. Fortunately, their services are seldom needed. In the former Statistical Account, it is stated, that since the battle of Kilsyth the people have a strong aversion to a military life,—that, in the course of twenty-one years, only one instance of a person enlisting had occurred—that there had not been a suspicion of murder for fifty years—that one instance of suicide had taken place about the year 1744—and that no person had been tried before a criminal court since 1732. The writer is unable to say whether the same state of things continues; but he has reason to believe, that, notwithstanding the altered circumstances of the country, instances similar to the foregoing are still extremely rare.

*Market-Town.*—The burgh itself is not a market-town, but a weekly market is held every Saturday in Anstruther Easter, which is united to it by a handsome bridge over the Dreel Burn.

*Means of Communication.*—The post-office is also placed in Anstruther Easter. Letters arrive and depart daily, though, from the frequent changes which have lately taken place, the hours are very uncertain. The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is only about half a mile, alongst which the Balcarres coach to Edinburgh runs thrice a week, returning on the alternate days. An omnibus also leaves every morning for Largo, and returns on the arrival of the steam-boat from Newhaven. Carriers travel regu-

larly to Edinburgh, and to all the neighbouring towns of any consequence in Fife, such as Cupar, St Andrews. In summer there is much communication carried on by steam-boats. Those to and from Dundee, Aberdeen, and Montrose, pass and repass daily to Newhaven, so that a journey, which, less than thirty years ago, occupied a whole day, or sometimes two or three, and could only be accomplished at a great expense, is now performed in two hours and a half, and for a very trifling sum.

The fences are commonly dry stone dikes, or, as they are called, Galloway dikes. In some places, we find hedges; but no great attention seems to be paid to either.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is very conveniently situated for the greater part of the population, being built in the burgh, where the bulk of the people reside. It may be nearly two miles from the north-west corner of the parish, but there is no inhabited house so remote as that. There does not appear to be any record as to the period when it was built; but, from the style of its architecture, it must have existed a considerable time previous to the Reformation. It was new roofed in 1761, and has been frequently repaired at considerable expense by the heritors. At present, it is in tolerable order. From its situation almost on the sea shore, and on the bank of the Dreel, it is liable to be damp and cold in winter; a stove, however, has just been erected in it, which will add much to its comfort. The number of seats is fully beyond that required by law, and they afford accommodation for all the parishioners who are able to attend public worship. Part of them belong to the kirk-session. These are let at sixpence a sitting, but even that small rent is very seldom demanded. The last time it was so, was during the prevalence of cholera, and the proceeds were handed over to the Board of Health. Almost all of the heritors give seats to their tenants and others. A very commodious manse, and what offices were considered necessary, were built for the late incumbent in 1835. The extent of the glebe is four acres, including fences. It was lately let at L. 26 per annum; and, considering its situation and the rent of the land around it, may still be worth that sum. There is no grass glebe, nor any allowance in lieu of it. The late incumbent, conceiving that he had a right to one, was at a very considerable expense in endeavouring to establish his claim; but failed before the Court of Session. All along, however, he had the impression that his cause was just, and that, if



he had carried it by appeal to the House of Lords, he would have been successful.

The stipend consists, *1st*, of the whole teinds of the parish, viz. 63 bolls, 3 firloths,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lippies of bear ; 20 bolls of oats ; 26 bolls, 3 firloths, 2 pecks,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lippie of oatmeal ; 3 firloths, 1 peck,  $\frac{1}{4}$  lippie of beans ; and L. 18, 16s. of money, which, on the average of the last five years, and deducting L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements, amounts to L. 103, 13s. 11d. ; *2d*, an allowance granted by Exchequer of L. 24, 1s. 10d. ; *3d*, the sum of L. 16, 13s. 4d. paid out of the Bishops' rents. This last sum, however, was lately withdrawn by Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests ; but in place of it the late incumbent had just obtained, under the small Stipend Act, an addition equal in amount from the Exchequer. With regard also to the sum paid out of the Bishop's rents, his legal advisers were of opinion that it ought not, at any time, to have been taken into account in allocating his stipend, and that Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests were exceeding their powers in depriving him of it, he having himself enjoyed it for upwards of thirty years, and his predecessors, at all events, since the date of the Union. " But," he adds in his communication to the Commissioners of Religious Instruction pathetically, and considering what has since occurred almost prophetically, " it may be prudent for a man at my time of life, with *such* a stipend and a family to provide for, to suffer patiently, rather than attempt going to law with Her Majesty's Commissioners of Woods and Forests." It is possible that his successor may feel himself justified in trying the question.

The number of Dissenters in the parish is just 15, in addition to 4 Episcopalians. Almost all the families, and almost all the individuals are connected with the Establishment ; and, in proportion to the population, divine service at the church is generally well attended. The number of communicants borders upon 200. A Bible and Missionary Society exists in the parish. Average amount of contributions for religious and charitable purposes L. 6. There was lately a collection, amounting to L. 2, for Church Extension, and L. 7, 1s. 6d. for the Colonial Churches. These, perhaps, are fully the average of what might be expected in any one year.

*Education.*—The parochial school is the only one in the parish. In it the branches taught are, reading, writing, arithmetic, geography, Latin, French, algebra, pure and practical mathematics. The schoolmaster has the maximum salary of L. 34, 4s. 4d. In

1833, when answers were returned to the Lord Advocate's queries on the subject of education, the average of fees for the four preceding years was L. 74, 16s. 9d., and in addition the teacher enjoys L. 4, being the interest of L. 100 left for the behoof of the school. It may be doubted, whether the average of the fees is quite so high at present. The schoolmaster, who was only lately elected, has not furnished me with the means of ascertaining, and perhaps could not very well tell; but I should think, that it could not be greatly reduced. The general expense of education should, I think, be from 10s. to L. 1, 5s. per annum, according to the age or attainments of the children. There do not appear to be any of the young betwixt six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write, or who are not learning to do so, neither are there any of those upwards of fifteen who cannot read. Two do so very imperfectly. There are about twenty-five grown up people, most aged females, who have not been taught to write. The people, in general, are fully alive to the benefits of education; and even the very poorest will make considerable exertions to procure it for their children.

A bursary connected with the United College of St Andrews, was endowed by the late Bailie William Thomson, a former chief magistrate of the burgh, in favour of some young man belonging to the parish. The value of the land mortified by the benevolent donor was about L. 700; but it was reduced to L. 500 by an unfortunate law-suit. The magistrates and minister are patrons. The endowment may occasionally be of use to young men of merit; but it may also encourage some to become students before they are qualified to profit by the education which a college imparts.

The following short account of an association which exists among the parochial schoolmasters in the East of Fife, may be of sufficient importance to be noticed in the Statistical Account.—The association was begun in 1818, under the designation of “The East of Fife Educational Society.” At present, it embraces, as members, all the schoolmasters along the coast from Elie to Kingsbarns. They meet once a-month at each others houses in rotation, and regular minutes are kept of the proceedings. The object of the association is for the mutual improvement of the members, in matters connected with education. They are in possession of a small and select library, consisting of works on education, science, &c. and they have also a set of chemical and other apparatus, both of which are receiving additions from



time to time. At each meeting of the society, a subject is appointed for discussion at next meeting. An essay is occasionally read, though the stated production of one is not imperative on the members. They are, however, expected to bring before the meeting any information or suggestion connected with the profession, which they may have acquired by reading or observation; and to give an account of the schools which they may have visited, plans of teaching, and improvements they may have observed. Such communications lead to many an interesting and useful conversation,—keep the members alive to the improvements that are going on in education,—stimulate their diligence, and prevent them from falling behind the time, in the art of communicating instruction.

At these meetings, the “brethren” really meet as brothers, and an unbroken course of good feeling is kept up amongst them.

I believe the East of Fife Educational Society is unique in its kind; but it might not, perhaps, be unworthy the consideration of the schoolmasters in other parts of the country, whether something of the same kind ought not to be originated among them.

*Charitable Institutions.*—Two friendly societies are in existence, called the Mortcloth and Benefit Society, and the Sea Box. The former has existed since 1670, but was re-established in 1819. Its members pay 1s. 6d. quarterly, or 6s. a year. In case of sickness, any of the members is entitled to 5s. weekly for nine weeks during the year, and no longer. When a member dies, each of the survivors is bound to pay 6d. to the treasurer, who gives the amount to the widow or nearest relation of the deceased, as funeral money; and each widow is entitled to an annual pension of L. 2, 12s., paid quarterly or yearly, as she may require. The writer is uncertain whether the Sea Box is a separate society, or whether it is connected with that of Anstruther Easter. Both of them, however, are useful in supplying the wants of their members, and in keeping up a spirit of independence, by preventing them from sinking down to the grade of paupers.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of the poor on the roll is six; but there are others who receive occasional relief. None get more than 10s. per month, and none less than 4s. The average may thus be about 7s. The sum collected yearly at the church door amounts to about L. 9. This, however, is exclusive of what is collected upon sacramental and other extraordinary occasions, which is applied to the occasional relief of individuals in indigent circumstances, who either do not require or do not choose

to be put on the list of regular weekly pensioners. Besides the collections, however, the session are in possession of considerable funds derived from the rent of land bequeathed for the behoof of the poor, which enables them easily to meet all the demands made upon their charity. Several tons of coal are also yearly distributed among the indigent. The late incumbent, who had great sensibility, was particularly attentive to the poor; and I have been informed that intimation has sometimes been made from the pulpit, that, if any were in want, they had nothing to do but apply to the session for relief. It seems to be the general opinion in this quarter, that there is now less disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief. The spirit of independence appears to be wearing out apace, and many, so far from considering it a degradation to be pensioners on the poor funds, think that they have a right to them, and cannot get enough. There are, however, some honourable exceptions to the remark.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used is coal—either obtained in the neighbourhood, or brought by sea from Newcastle. Scotch coal may cost 6s. or 7s. a ton at the pit mouth—and English from 15s. 6d. to 17s. when delivered from the ship. To those who can afford the inlay, the latter will be found the cheapest and the most comfortable. But Scotch coal is commonly preferred for the kitchen.

*Fairs, Inns, &c.*—No fair is held in the burgh; but there is one inn,—quite enough for the population, and the effects of which are said to be very pernicious.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The burgh of Anstruther Wester has undergone considerable improvements within the last few years. Across the burn which separates it from Anstruther Easter, a bridge was erected at the mutual expense of the two burghs in 1831. Before that period, the only communication betwixt them for carriages was by a ford, at all times inconvenient, and sometimes impassable. Besides this, there may also be noticed, the widening of the main street at the West Port, from 13 to 30 feet—its Macadamization,—and the formation of a neat footway or pavement, at an expense of L. 450, contributed equally by the burgh and county. The town is also now supplied with water, the streets lighted, and common sewers and other conveniences constructed, whereby the public thoroughfares and lanes are kept in a clean and orderly state. A new manse and offices for the clergyman, and a handsome school and dwelling-house for



the schoolmaster, have likewise been lately erected. The landward part of the parish has in like manner partaken of the general improvement. Notwithstanding the late depression in all kinds of produce, agriculture is carried on with spirit, and not without profit to the farmer. At the date of the last account, the rent of land varied from L. 1, 1s. to L. 1, 10s. per acre : now it is from L. 2 to L. 3, 10s. Great attention is paid to the breeding and feeding of cattle : and this is sometimes found to be one of the most profitable modes in which the farmer can employ his capital. Draining, too, is carried on to a considerable extent ; and although the parish is small and not naturally very fertile, the produce of the land bears a full proportion to the surrounding district. In some respects, too, the morals have undergone a change for the better. Hard drinking, which was formerly so common, is never heard of in any family, having the least pretensions to gentility, and it is to be hoped that the example of their superiors will not be without effect on the lower orders, among whom it is still too generally practised.

The writer cannot conclude without adverting to the circumstance which has imposed on him the task of drawing up the foregoing account,—the death of his much esteemed and lamented friend, Dr Carstairs, late minister of the parish. In him, his family, the church, and society at large, have lost a very valuable member. All the duties, whether of his public or his private station, he discharged with exemplary fidelity and zeal ; and it has seldom been our lot to see any one more deeply or sincerely regretted. He will long live in the memory of all that shared in his friendship, or with whom he was in any way connected.

*November 1838.*

## PARISH OF CREICH.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR; SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER LAWSON, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of the parish has been written in these different ways, *Creigh*, *Creich*, *Creche*, *Crigh*, and *Criech*; but in the Session records, is almost invariably written *Creich*. The parish very probably received this appellation from the farm of Creich, in the centre of which the old church and the burying-ground are situated, and where the manse also was at one time placed. The word is generally thought to be derived from the Gaelic word *Craigich*, signifying *rocky* or *craggy ground*,—a description applicable to the appearance of the parish, especially of the grounds of the farm of Creich.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish is of an irregular figure. It extends in length from north to south about 3 miles, and varies from 1 mile to nearly 2 miles in breadth, the greatest breadth being in the middle, and the least in the north. It is bounded on the north by the parish of Flisk; on the south, by the parishes of Moonzie and Monimail; on the east, by those of Kilmany and Balmerino; and on the west, by those of Abdie and Dunbog.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The parish presents great inequalities of surface. It consists of hills, which are part of the Ochil range, of various sizes and forms, the highest not appearing to exceed 550 feet above the level of the sea. Of these, some are cultivated to the top, others are partly covered with thriving plantations, which add much to the beauty of the surrounding country; while several still exhibit a rocky and rugged aspect, and produce little else than heath and furze. Were these last tastefully and judiciously planted with varieties of wood, the ground, which now generally affords but a scanty supply of pasture, would be more profitably occupied, the climate would be improved, and few places would display more varied and beautiful scenery. The sides of most of the hills and the lower grounds are fertile and well cul-



tivated. The soil of the former is a thin sharp gravelly loam, that of the latter is deeper, and is in some places moss, in others clay, but in general a black loam.

Small streams run through the intervening valleys, and, uniting near to the village of Luthrie, form the Motray, a rivulet which, continuing its course through the parishes of Kilmany and Leuchars, falls into the Eden at the inner bridge.

From the summit of the Black Craig, and also from that of the Green Craig, both of which hills are near to the ruins of the old church, may be had one of the most extensive and delightful views in Scotland, comprehending the estuary of the Tay, the Carse of Gowrie, so famed for its richness and beauty, and the Sidlaw and Grampian mountains on the north; the town of Dundee, and the fertile country onwards to the neighbourhood of Arbroath on the north-east; and on the west, part of Strathearn, the finely varied hills about Perth, with Benledi, Benlawers, &c. in the distance.

*Climate.*—The climate is dry and healthful. In the lower parts of the parish, it is mild and pleasant, but on the higher grounds, it is rather cold and bracing. As a proof of its salubrity, there are many instances of longevity among the inhabitants. The late minister, Dr Greenlaw, who had almost completed the sixtieth year of his incumbency when he died, lived to the age of ninety-four, and he continued so vigorous as to visit his parish during the last year of his life. His wife attained nearly the same advanced age.

*Geology.*—I am indebted to my friend, Dr Fleming of King's College, Aberdeen, for the following account of the geology of the parish. The rocks of this parish may be considered as constituting a portion of the trap formation of the Ochils, a hilly ridge extending from the neighbourhood of Stirling to Ferryport-on-Craig, at the mouth of the Tay. The parish may be viewed, on the great scale, as consisting of a bed of amygdaloid, which stretches in an easterly direction, dipping towards the south at an angle seldom exceeding twenty degrees. The basis of the amygdaloid is in general a claystone, sometimes a compact felspar, and, in a few instances, greenstone. It contains, in its cells, calcareous spar, quartz, chlorite and agate; the last mineral, under the name of pebble, is collected for sale by several individuals of the parish, and specimens of great size and beauty have frequently been obtained. Subordinate to the amygdaloid occur lengthened masses of other rocks, some of which may be regarded as rather uncommon; in particular, there is a bed of clinkstone tra-

versing the northern extremity of the parish, of great value for many practical purposes. It occurs in columnar concretions, usually termed basaltic pillars, in consequence of which it is easily quarried. It is readily dressed to any given form, splits easily in a direction across the columns, emits a striking ringing sound, especially when in thin slabs, and is of a uniformly dark colour. It resists the action of the weather, constituting an extremely durable building material. Where it has suffered by atmospheric influence it exhibits a laminar or stratified structure, a circumstance from which it is natural to conclude that it is a sedimentary rock. When used as road metal it is easily broken, being somewhat brittle, though it resists the bruising effects of wheels, and is thus valuable on account of its durability. It forms the hills of Craigen-crune, Blackcraig, Greencraig, Craigsimmy, Craiglug, Lochy-hill; and the Blackcraig of Carphin,—the same bed extending westward through the parishes of Abdie and Flisk, constituting the heights of Norman's Law and Glenduckie. In consequence of this rock decomposing slowly, its soil is scanty, and does not appear so favourable to vegetation as that which is produced by the amygdaloid in which it is imbedded.

Occupying a similar position in the amygdaloid masses of compact felspar, may be observed a considerable portion of one of these rocks, as exposed to view at the north-west side of Lochyhill, constituting a range of columns apparently underlying the clinkstone of which the hill in general is composed. The rock is more or less porphyritic, and, when injured by atmospheric influence, it splits in various directions, forming irregular angular blocks. At the north side of the Blackcraig of Carphin, there is a bed of gray sandstone, which may be traced a few hundred yards at the base of the hill, and apparently imbedded in the amygdaloid, and in the immediate vicinity of the clinkstone. A quarry was opened in this rock a few years ago, and building materials of considerable value were obtained. The sandstone occurs in thick beds, with interposed layers of slate clay, and the whole, according to the present section, covered with slate clay or camstone. It is similar in its relations and character to a sandstone which occurs at Birkhill, about two miles to the eastward, and is considered as the equivalent of the Kingoody stone, so extensively quarried to the westward of Dundee, and on the north side of the estuary of the Tay. The amygdaloid is traversed by numerous small veins of calcareous spar, quartz, agate and jasper. Veins, however, of a greater size, and such as



are denominated *dikes*, may be observed, though not in abundance. One vein of compact felspar, in the direction of the dip, may be observed at the Broomhill. It is quarried for road metal, being greatly superior in durability to the amygdaloid with which it is surrounded. Another mass of felspar traversing the amygdaloid in a south-easterly direction, on the *Sheep walk hill* of Carphin, may be observed.

The greenstone dike, which has been denominated the great Flisk vein, and which may be traced from the neighbourhood of Newburgh on the west, enters this parish at Carphin wood. After having traversed the clinkstone of Norman's Law, it passes on in an easterly direction through the amygdaloid, until it is lost in the neighbourhood of the new church of Creich, though it appears to be related to the greenstone of Drumnod, &c. to the eastward.

In consequence of the dip of the strata being to the south, the steep sides of the hills in the parish face the north. From the great inequality of the composition of the amygdaloid, it has resisted in a very unequal manner the decomposing influence of the atmosphere, and hence the surface of the parish is exceedingly uneven. The harder rocks occupy the eminences, and exhibit an irregular outline, while the prevailing softer amygdaloid gives to the hills composed of it a more rounded and even surface.

The rock cover or *tirring* is in general derived from a decomposition of the rocks, though, in a few instances, it is diluvium. Gravelly diluvium occurs, though in no great quantity, at Luthrie. Clay diluvium forms the subsoil to the west of Balyarrow mire. By the partial filling of a valley, and interrupting the progress of the natural drainage, this diluvium has formed by its deposition the barrier of a lake.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Eminent Individuals—Alexander Henderson.*—The Rev. Alexander Henderson, who acted so prominent a part in favour of Presbyterianism, during the reigns of James the Sixth and Charles the First, was a native of this parish. He was born in 1582 or 1583, as appears from his monumental inscription in the Greyfriars Churchyard, Edinburgh. His birth is not inserted in any of the registers of the parish, in possession of the kirk-session, as none of them extends farther back than 1668. In a minute of session, however, of date 5th October 1702, it is mentioned, *inter alia*, that "There was a bond of 2000 merks secured upon the lands of Creich, which Mr Alexander Henderson, late minister of Luchars, and afterwards

of Edinburgh, had mortifyd for the encouragement of a schoolmaster in the parish. The said Mr Alexander being born in the town of Luthrie." After having been educated at the University of St Andrews, where he acquired considerable literary reputation, and where he became a Professor and also Questor of the Faculty of Arts, he was presented by Archbishop Gladstones, about the year 1612, to the church and parish of Leuchars, of which he continued the minister for many years. Though at the period of his induction he was attached to Episcopacy, he soon embraced and steadily maintained Presbyterian principles.

From his great talents, learning, piety, prudence, and integrity, he obtained a leading part in the management of ecclesiastical affairs, and was elected Moderator of the General Assembly on three different trying occasions, as being the best qualified for the office. In the memorable Assembly at Glasgow, in 1638, he was Moderator when Episcopacy was abjured, and Presbyterianism restored to its original purity. Presbyteries were then directed by that Court to erect a school in every landward parish, and the plan of the parish school, which combines education with religious instruction, and which has been productive of the most important advantages to Scotland, is said to have been devised by Henderson. He was ever desirous to promote education, and, as a proof of the encouragement he gave to it, he was made a burghess of Dundee, in 1632, for his good services to the schools in that town; and he bequeathed not only 2000 merks for the maintenance of a school in this parish, but also mortified a house, garden, croft, two acres of land, and L. 4, 10s. 6d. Sterling for the benefit of a schoolmaster in the parish of Leuchars. At the Glasgow Assembly it was agreed to translate him from Leuchars to Edinburgh. When one of the ministers of that city, being a great encourager of learning, he had the honour of being chosen the first Rector of the Edinburgh University, in January 1640, and of being annually re-elected Rector till the time of his death. He had, moreover, the merit of being the first in proposing, and of having a considerable share in framing, our Confession of Faith, our Larger and Shorter Catechisms, our Directory of Church Government and Worship, and also of improving the metrical version of the Psalms which is still used in our Churches. In all matters of public importance he was consulted by the most influential statesmen; and even King Charles I., who had a great respect for his character,



and a high opinion of his learning and abilities, knowing his desire to have Presbyterianism established throughout the British dominions, entered into a correspondence with him regarding the comparative merits of Episcopal and Presbyterian modes of church government, but was not induced to agree to the abolition of Episcopacy in England.

Henderson was a man of amiable dispositions, naturally averse to violence, and desirous to unite the friends of true religion; and he was possessed of a sound discriminating judgment, which, while it led him to endeavour to prevent those ruinous excesses to which "some fiery spirits" of his own party would have carried them, led him also, where necessary, to adopt strong measures in order to remove grievances, and to accomplish a reformation.

He was an enlightened, able, and temperate defender of Presbyterianism, and so continued to the last moment of his life.\* His death, which took place in 1646, was deeply regretted as a great loss to the Church and to the kingdom. Principal Baillie pronounced a high eulogium on his character in the General Assembly of 1647: and the Presbyterians, in general, honoured his memory by every expression of their esteem and regard.†

*Family of Bethune of Creich.*—The first proprietor of Creich of the name of Bethune was David, second son of John Bethune, Laird of Balfour, and of Marjory Boswell, daughter of the Laird of Balmuto. He was highly esteemed by King James IV., who created him Great Treasurer of Scotland, and Keeper of the Palace of Falkland. "He conquest and acquired the lands of Creich from the Littles or Liddels, in 1502." He was married to — Duddingston, daughter to the Laird of Sandford in Fife. Janet, their elder daughter, from whom many of the chief nobility and gentry in Scotland are descended, was married, first, to Sir Robert Livingston of East Wemyss, and after his death to James, the first Earl of Arran of the Hamiltons, and nephew to King James III. Of the issue of this latter marriage was James, Earl of Arran, who was also Duke of Chatelherault, and Regent of the kingdom. Mary, the younger daughter, was married to Lord Lyle.—Sir John Bethune, the second proprietor of Creich, succeeded his father, and was married to Janet Hay, daughter of John Hay, provost of Dundee, and niece of the Laird of Naugh-

\* See Acts of General Assembly, 7th August 1648.

† For a full and impartial account of this eminent individual, see Dr Aiton's "Life and Times of Alexander Henderson."

ton, by whom he had four sons and seven daughters.\* Janet, their eldest daughter, who was married, first, to the Laird of Cranstoun, second, to the Laird of Craigmillar, and third, to Sir Walter Scott of Buccleuch, Senior, to the last of whom she had four daughters—is celebrated in the Lay of the Last Minstrel for her bold and adventurous spirit, her great influence, and for the popular belief of her mysterious endowments. A copy of a letter of her's to the Queen Regent Mary of Guise is published in the Miscellany of the Maitland Club. All the other daughters of Sir John Bethune were respectably married. His eldest son, David, who inherited the estate of Creich, having died a bachelor in 1539, was succeeded by his brother, Robert, the fourth proprietor of the name of Bethune. He was page to Queen Mary, and accompanied her to France, where she was married to the Dauphin. On her return to Scotland in 1561, he was made Master of the Household, Heritable Steward of Fife, and Keeper of the Palace of Falkland. He married a French lady, Joanna Renwall or Gryssoner, a maid of honour to the Queen, by whom he had two sons and eight daughters. Mary,† their eldest daughter, is well known as having been one of the Queen's four *Maries*, and is celebrated by Buchanan in his *Valentiniana* :

Ad Mariam Betonam, pridie Regalium Reginam sorte ductam.  
 Regno animus tibi dignus erat, tibi regia virtus ;  
 Et poterant formam sceptrum decere tuam.  
 Fortuna erubuit sua munera sola deesse,  
 Quæ tibi nunc plena dat cumulata manu.  
 Cumque tibi immunem dederit livoris honorem,  
 Non satis est tardam visa luisse moram,  
 Ni Regina, orbis longe dignissima scepro,  
 Gauderet regno læta subesse tuo.

Mr Macdonald of the Register-House has printed a copy of her contract of marriage with Alexander Ogilvie of the Boyne, in the Miscellany of the Maitland Club, Vol. 1st. It is remarkable for its being subscribed not only by Queen Mary and Henry Darnley as parties, but by the Earls of Huntly, Argyll, Bothwell, Murray, Angus, and Atholl, as cautioners for the bridegroom, by Ogilvie himself as Boyne, and by Mary Bethune, many personages who are represented in history as having been generally hostile to one another.—David Bethune, the eldest son of Robert, succeeded him

\* "It is observed and reported as a truth," says Martine, "that the race and people of Balfour were always black, and not beautiful and fair, but that ever after the Laird of Creich married this Janet Hay, the Bethunes of Creich have ever been yellow-haired for the most part, and of beautiful countenances."—Martin's Genealogical Coll. MS. Adv. Lib.

† There is an original Portrait of this Mary Bethune in full-court dress, in Balfour House, in Fife.



as fifth proprietor of Criech, and married Euphan P. B. Leslie, daughter of the Earl of Rothes, by whom he had an only child, a female, but, being desirous that the estate of Creich should continue to be possessed only by those of the name of Bethune, he disposed it to his brother, James, parson of Roxburgh, who became in consequence the sixth proprietor.\* He married, first, Helen Leslie, heiress of Kinnaird, and after her death, Margaret Wemyss, eldest daughter of David Wemyss of that ilk, from whom it is said the Earls of Wemyss are descended. Their eldest son and grandson succeeded to the property as the seventh and eighth proprietors. The latter was married to Lady Margaret Cunninghame, daughter of the Earl of Glencairn: but she having no family, and his brother William having no male children, he disposed the whole estate of Creich,† being about 80 chalders of victual, to James Bethune, then fiar of Balfour, under the burden of 80,000 or 90,000 merks, reserving to himself the liferent of the most part, and to his Lady the liferent of 32 chalders of victual. Lamont, in his *Diary of Fife*, mentions that this Laird of Creich, soon after disposing the property, died at his dwelling-house at Denbough, on 4th March 1660, and was interred at Creich church.

*Family of Seton of Parbroath.*—The first proprietor of Parbroath of the name of Seton was John, fourth son of the famous Alexander Seton, Governor of Berwick. He became proprietor of the lands of Parbroath by marrying Elizabeth Ramsay, heiress thereof. Their son, Alexander, was father of Sir Gilbert Seton of Parbroath, from whom the lineal succession continued till the reign of James VI.

*Family of Baillie.*—The Baillies of this parish were descended from the first of the family of Baillie of Carphin, in the upper ward of Lanarkshire. He was second son of Sir William Baillie of Lamington, and of the eldest daughter and heiress of the celebrated Sir William Wallace, the brave defender of Scotland.‡ The descent of Baillie of Lamington has been traced as far back as to John Baliol, father of John Baliol, King of Scotland. The name was changed from Baliol to Baillie.§

\* "At this time the fortune of Creich tailzied to the second son of the House of Balfour, failing heirs male of Mr James Bethune." See Martin's Gen. Col. MSS.

† The barony of Creich comprehended the lands of Dunbog, Contrahills, and Creich. See *Registrum Mag. Sigilli lxxxix.* 123,

‡ See Nisbet's *Heraldry*, Vol. ii. App. p. 137. Nisbet, in his *Heraldry*, informs us that the barony of Luthrie and Kinsliffe previously belonged to Kinloch of Kinloch in Collessie parish.

§ See Parish of Gladsmuir.

From the session records, it appears that the family of Baillie were in possession of Balmeadowside and Parbroath in 1668. They subsequently purchased the estate of Luthrie, which at that time comprehended the present lands of Luthrie, East Luthrie, and Carphin. After having for some time retained possession of all these different estates, they sold Parbroath to John, the second Earl of Hopetoun, grandfather of George William Hope, Esq. M. P. the present proprietor. In 1780, they sold Balmeadowside to D. Wallace, Esq., and East Luthrie to Thomas Tod, Esq. The eldest son of the former, and the only son of the latter, now inherit the respective properties. Carphin was sold to Miss Halkerston of Rathillet, great grand-aunt to C. B. Raitt, Esq. the present proprietor.

The late Colonel Alexander Baillie of Luthrie, who was patron of the parish, and Barrack-Master-General of Scotland, died without issue in 1814, and his widow, Mrs Euphan Hamilton or Baillie, who was daughter and heiress of Mrs Bethia Hamilton of Wishaw, continued in possession of the present estate of Luthrie till the 17th September 1823, when she died. A handsome marble monument is erected to their memory in the new church. The estate of Luthrie was, soon after the death of Mrs Baillie, sold to Charles Hill, Esq. whose eldest son is now the proprietor.

*Land-owners*, and the names of their properties in the parish, with their valued rents, are as follows :

Land-owners.	Properties.	Valued Rent Scots.
Andrew Wallace, .	Balmeadowside, .	L. 475 5 5
Charles Hill, Esq. .	Luthrie, .	447 9 4
Charles B. Raitt, Esq. .	Carphin, including W. Kinsleith, 492	4 11
George William Hope of Rankeil- lour, M. P. .	} Parbroath; . . . . . Creich, . . . . . E. Luthrie, . . . . . E. Kinsleith, . . . . . W. S. Skilmervie, . . . . . Brunton feus, . . . . .	423 7 11
David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton, .		353 0 0
George Tod, Esq. .		306 19 1
John Miller, Esq. .		179 0 0
James Nairne of Clermont, Esq. .		31 13 4
		19 0 0

Total valued rent of the parish, L. 2668 0 0

Ministers of the parish from the Reformation in 1560, to the present time, (see Baxter's Catalogue of Ministers in Synod of Fife.) Mr Thomas Drummond 1563. James Cavie, reader, 1567. Mr Robert Paterson 1567. Mr Andrew Bennet, admitted February 1583-4. Mr John Killoch, vicar, admitted August 1585. Mr Thomas Baxter admitted 1590. Mr Alexander Strachan, 1604, banished by King James 1606. Mr David Kinnear, 1617. Mr Andrew Bennet, admitted 1617, conformed to presbytery



1638, died 1651. Vacant from 1651 to 1654. Mr John Alexander, translated from Cults, December 1654, conformed to Episcopacy 1662. Mr James Seaton admitted, outed 1689; vacant from 1689 to 1693. Mr John Law admitted December 1693, died, June 9th 1694. Mr David Pitcairn, admitted August 27th 1695, transported to Forres 1700. Mr James Henry, admitted 1702, transported to Kinghorn 1717. Mr James Bruce, ordained 10th March 1719, died 1746. Mr Francis Adams, ordained December 1747, died August 1754. Dr Greenlaw, ordained May 8th 1755, died 1815; present incumbent, ordained September 1815.

*Parochial Registers.*—The date of the earliest entry is 1668. Marriages and baptisms appear, with a few exceptions, to have been recorded with regularity from 1668 to the present time, and births have frequently, but not always, been inserted. For many years past, births have been always entered along with the baptisms. There is a register of burials, along with baptisms and marriages, from 1st October 1783, to 1st October 1794, after which time the registering of burials was discontinued, seemingly in consequence of the Government tax on births, marriages, and burials, ceasing at that time by act of Parliament to be uplifted. A register of those who die in the parish has been regularly kept since 1817. The registers of births, marriages, and deaths, have, for the last twenty years, been kept according to a plan recommended by the presbytery to the different parishes within their bounds. They are annually inspected by the committee of presbytery appointed for the examination of the schools, and have uniformly been commended for their distinctness and accuracy.

*Antiquities.—Ancient Circles of Stones.*—In the spring of the year 1816, while some workmen were employed in trenching a piece of ground a little to the south-west of the manse, they came to a number of stones, about eight or ten inches below the surface, placed in a regular form. The part of the country in which these regularly arranged stones were situated, is very uneven. Three ridges of hills, extending in different directions, terminate on the west in Norman's Law, the most elevated ground in the north of Fife. On the south side of the most northern of these ridges, and about midway between the top of one of the hills and a small rivulet which flows along the strath, there is a lateral shelf, upon which these stones were discovered. This northern ridge extends in a direction from east to west.

From the workmen frequently meeting with stones of all sizes

in the course of trenching, unfortunately the regular arrangement of those above-mentioned was not attended to, until two carved stones were cast up, with the figures upon each very entire. This circumstance naturally led to an examination of all the stones, to a consideration of the manner in which they were originally placed, and to an attention to those which yet remained untouched. Upon examination, no other figured stone appeared; but, what was remarkable, many of those taken up were sandstone, while the hill on which they were placed, and all the hills in the neighbourhood, are whinstone rock. Those which remained untouched were set on end, and so arranged as to form two arches of concentric circles. So far as could be judged at the time of discovery, the whole erect stones, which were, in general, from a foot and a half to two feet and a half high, were so placed as to make up two figures of a circular, or, perhaps, more nearly of an elliptical form, the one contained within the other. In the centre was a cylindrical stone pillar of the same height with the rest, and near to it were the carved stones.

It is to be regretted that most of the stones were taken up before their number, their regular arrangement, and individual position, were ascertained. This good effect, however, resulted from the discovery of this structure, that it induced some workmen, who were soon after ploughing a field about five or six hundred yards due east of the place above described, to conclude, when their ploughs repeatedly struck against some stones, that they had come to something similar to what had been so recently discovered at so short a distance, and to pay particular attention to preserve every stone in its original position. They accordingly proceeded to remove all the earth with the greatest care, and their expectations of finding another curiosity were soon completely realized. Upon acquainting the present incumbent with the circumstance, he went and carefully examined the situation of this structure: attended to its form and arrangement; then took the dimensions of its different circles, and the stones of which they were composed. Its situation, like that of the former, was a lateral flat on the south side of the same ridge of hills, and also at an equal distance from the summit and the stream below.

In the centre was placed, in an upright position, a cylindrical sandstone, one foot two inches high, and having the diameter of its base one foot. Around this stone, as a centre, at the distance of three feet, were sixteen other stones, placed also in an up-



right position, and in the form of a circle. The stones of which it was composed were of various sizes, from fifteen to twenty inches in height; from eight to eighteen in breadth, and from four to nine in thickness. Due south of the centre, and between it and the inner circle, there were placed in a horizontal position, two stones containing hieroglyphics in *alto relievo*, very entire. The remaining space between the centre and the circle was laid with pavement. At the distance of seven feet and a half from the same central pillar, there was another circle of stones, thirty-two in number, placed in an upright position, and very much resembling those of the inner circle. The stones in both circles were placed close together. Between the circles there was neither pavement nor stone of any description. Neither were perfect circles, the diameter of one, from north to south, being fifteen feet one inch, while its diameter from east to west was only fourteen feet nine inches; in the same manner, the diameter of the other, from east to west, was five feet ten inches, while from north to south it was six feet one inch.

It is curious to observe, that many of the stones here found, like those discovered the year before, were sandstone, while none of the same kind can be got nearer than a quarry at Cupar moor, which is seven miles distant.

At the distance of a few yards on the south, there were also discovered under ground two curious whinstones; one resembles in shape the frustum of a cone, with a small projection at the greater end, through which is a round hole. From this, at the distance of nine inches, and also near the base, is a slit two and a half inches in length, and extending inwards about an inch and a half; on the side directly opposite to this slit, part of the stone is broken off. The perpendicular height of the frustum is seven inches, the diameter of the small end is seven and a half inches, and the diameter of the greater end is eleven. At the top or small end of the stone, there is an excavation, around which is a margin of rather more than half an inch in breadth. From this cavity, which is five inches in depth, and capable of containing a quart, there is a round hole reaching to the bottom of the stone.

The other stone is much broken. Its shape appears to have originally much resembled that of the former. Its present perpendicular height is seven inches, the diameter of the greater end is eleven, and that of the small end nine. Like the former, it has a hole in the side near to the base, and reaching about three

inches inwards. It has also a cavity at the top, and a perforation extending from the cavity to the bottom. The perforation in this stone is four inches in depth, exactly double the depth of the perforation on the other.

The above described monument was allowed to remain for ten days in its original form for public inspection, but as some people, from a love of mischief, or from an expectation of finding hidden treasure, were beginning to lift and injure some of the stones, and as no method of preserving them in safety in their original situation could be easily adopted, it was considered necessary to remove them. They were taken up in presence of a concourse of people who had assembled to gratify their curiosity, when underneath one of the carved stones, were found burned human bones and charcoal. George Tod, Esq. of Luthrie, on whose property these ancient circles were discovered, with much civility presented them to the present incumbent, and they are now placed precisely in their original form in a wood behind the manse, a good subject for the examination of the antiquary. Figures of them are given in the *Edinburgh Magazine*, December 1817.

It has been supposed by some, that these ancient circles were small Druidical temples or rather oratories for families, that the excavated stones were meant for containing holy water, which the Druids, as well as the Greeks, the Jews, and other ancient nations were accustomed to use, and that the burned bones were the remains of the sacrifices here offered. It has been supposed by others, with seemingly greater probability, among whom is Huddleston, the learned Editor of Toland's *History of the Druids*, that these are sepulchral monuments, and that the hieroglyphics on the stones are sepulchral inscriptions—that one of these, which is the figure of a spade, is an emblem of mortality, and as such is still seen on tombstones; that the figure of a pair of shoes, and of a shield turned upside down, may naturally signify that the owner has no farther use for them, and may remind one of the reversing of arms at a soldier's funeral; that the circular figures may represent rings, which have often been found in sepulchral monuments; that the circular figure with perforated knobs may represent an antique vase with *guttæ lachrymales*; that the cross inscribed in a circle may represent the wheel of some ancient carriage, while the figure to the left may represent the body of the machine disjoined from it, as if no more required. The stones found near to the above structure may have been entirely unconnected with it.\*

\* See *Edinburgh Magazine*, December 1817, and April 1818.



*Ancient Fort.*—On the Greenraig, a little to the eastward of the manse, are two concentric circles of rough stones, at no great distance from each other, which extend round the hill, near to its summit, except on the north side, where it is precipitous.

Some have supposed that they are the remains of an ancient camp of the Danes, which had two lines of circumvallation; that when the Danes invaded the country for plunder, they here deposited their spoils, until they found it necessary, from being attacked by the natives, to remove their pillage to their boats in the Tay. Others have supposed that they are the remains of a fort erected by the natives, for the purpose of defending themselves and their property against the predatory incursions of the Danes or other enemies.

An ancient quern was lately found here by some workmen when employed in trenching, and was kindly presented to the present incumbent by Mr Mitchell, tenant of the farm on which it was discovered.

*Urns, &c.*—Besides the two jars mentioned in the former Statistical Account, as having been found in a rising ground near to the manse, two urns were discovered many years ago a little to the west of the present house of Parbroath, and two stone coffins a little to the east of it. Urns have also been found on the lands of Balmeadowside. All these were deposited on knolls, and contained human bones; but nothing worthy of notice is remembered regarding them.\*

*Creich Castle*, the ancient residence of the Bethunes, is now a ruin. It is 47 feet in length, by 39 in breadth, and three stories high, with a court-yard on the west. Within this court-yard the present farm-house is situate. The castle has been a place of very con-

\* Since the above was written there was discovered, on the 8th of February 1839, when digging a grave within the old church of Creich, a few inches under the pavement, a grave-stone, 6 feet 7 inches in length, 2 feet 8 inches in breadth, and 4 inches in thickness. On the top of the stone are carved two figures,—one of a man in a complete coat of mail, and another of a lady in a long embroidered robe. Above the figures are canopies of tabernacle work, finely designed. Upon two shields are emblazoned the arms of the families of Barclay and Douglas. This stone was found lying partly within and partly in front of a niche, on the top of which are the Barclay arms. On the outer edge of the stone, which is bevelled, is the following inscription, in old English characters. Two of the words, which are a little defaced, are omitted: HIC JACET DAVID BERCLAY DE.....DNS DE.....QUI OBIIT DIE MESIS.....

ANNO DIY. M<sup>mo</sup>.CCCC.

HIC JACET HELENA DE DOUGLAS UXOR PREDICTY QUI OBIIT XXIX DIE MESIS JANUARIJ ANNO DIY. M<sup>o</sup>CCCCXXI.

The figures, although not in relief, are executed with great freedom and artist-like skill, and the lettering of the inscription is done with a correctness and beauty that could scarcely be equalled at the present time. From there being hollows cut in the stone for the faces and hands, it appears that these had been inserted in metal.

There was a French copper coin, much defaced, found a few inches under the old grave-stone.

siderable strength. It was defended on the south-east by a morass, which has lately been drained, and on the other sides by strong outworks, part of which has been taken down. It bears no date to mark its age. The proprietor, a few years ago, very judiciously upheld its ruined walls by a repair, clothed them with ivy, and near to them planted some trees for shelter and ornament. It is said that, at a short distance from the castle and a little to the north of the church, formerly stood a brewery, to which was attached a ploughgate of land, denominated *Pitfigies*.

*The old Parish Church*, where divine service was performed so late as the 9th December 1832, is surrounded by the burying-ground and in the immediate vicinity of the castle. In the interior of one of the walls are two niches, on the top of one of which is a coat of arms, which appears to be that of the Barclays of Collairnie, who were, at a very early period, proprietors of Kinsleith, in this parish, and who sold that portion called Easter Kinsleith, in 1727, to James Miller, Esq. the great grandfather of the present proprietor.

*Ancient House of Parbroath*.—Of this house or castle, which belonged to the family of Seton, nothing now remains to mark the site save part of an arch surrounded by a few old trees, which has been carefully preserved by desire of the late Earl of Hopetoun. It stands near to the place where the road between the Forth and Tay ferries crosses the road from Cupar to Newburgh. The house is said to have been surrounded by a moat, over which there was a draw-bridge, and the park in which they were situated is still called the Castlefield. There is a tradition that one of the late farm-buildings at Parbroath, which was long used as a barn, had at one time been a chapel, and that at it, and at the church of Creich, divine service was performed on alternate Sabbaths. In confirmation of a chapel having been here, it may be stated, that, a few years ago, when the foundation of a wall was dug up close by the site of the old barn, some graves were discovered, which probably formed part of the burying-ground connected with the chapel.

It is not unlikely that this chapel may have been the capella belonging to the parish of Creich, mentioned by Sibbald in his *History of Fife*.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755 was 375	
1791	306, of these were 134 males, 172 females.
1811	394
1821	403
1831	419, of these were 193 males, 226 females.
1838	425



It is stated in the last Statistical Account, that the diminution of one-fifth of the population which had taken place in the thirty-five years preceding 1790, was probably owing to one village being allowed to go to decay, to the union of farms, and the use of two horse ploughs. Since that time, several additional houses have been built in the other villages, and some are occupied by numerous families, which may account for the increase.

There is often a very considerable difference between the population of one year and that of another, arising from the changes of farm-servants and others, some of whom have numerous families.

The number of the population residing in villages is	-	-	236
the country,	-	-	187
The average annual of births for the last ten years is	-	-	134
deaths,	-	-	63
marriage proclamations,	-	-	61 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>6</sub>

This last is the average of all who are proclaimed in the parish, whether at the time of a proclamation both parties are resident or only one.

The total number of illegitimate births for the last ten years is 3.

There are eight proprietors of land in the parish of the yearly value of more than L. 50. Of these, four are resident, and farm their own properties.

	In 1838.	In 1831.
Number of families,	94	85
Inhabited houses,	79	74
Uninhabited houses,	3	2
Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture	45	38
in trade, manufactures, &c.*	43	43
all others,	6	6

There is no insane person in the parish, but there is one who may be considered fatuous.

*Prevailing Amusements.*—The favourite amusement in this parish is curling. Many of the landed proprietors, almost the whole tenantry in the neighbourhood, and others of different professions, resort to the ice on Balyarrow, and enjoy this innocent, healthful, and invigorating exercise. The Balyarrow Curling Club is said to be the oldest in the north of Fife.

*Character and Habits of the People.*—They are industrious, peaceable, and orderly in their habits. They enjoy in a reasonable degree the advantages of society, and are civil and obliging. They live comfortably without extravagance, and are contented with their situation. In their food and in their man-

\* There are in the parish, including masters, journeymen, and apprentices, 7 wrights, 2 sawyers, 3 masons, 1 blacksmith, 1 saddler, 11 shoemakers, 5 tailors, 2 bakers, 2 brewers, 2 grocers.

ner of dress, there is no peculiarity. On the Sabbath, they appear in church in their best attire, which is neat, respectable, and becoming. They show a regard for religious institutions and instruction; and may, in general, be considered an intelligent, moral, and religious people.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—From answers to my inquiries by the different proprietors and tenants, I am enabled to state that the number of standard imperial acres in the parish is 2324; that of these 1803 are cultivated; that 276 remain constantly waste or in pasture; that scarcely any could with a profitable application of capital be added to the cultivated land; that 41 acres are occupied by roads, houses, farm-steadings, barn-yards, church-yard, and burying-ground; and that the remaining 204 are under plantation.

*Woods.*—The trees are chiefly Scotch, larch, and spruce firs, in the larger plantations intermixed with several kinds of hard-wood. In one of smaller extent, and in some belts and clumps of planting, they are chiefly hard-wood; and in the grounds about Luthrie House there are some fine old elms, planes, and horse-chestnuts, &c. A few years ago a plantation of Scotch fir of fifteen imperial acres, on the north-east extremity of the farm of Creich, and last year about nine acres of a plantation on Luthrie, were cut down and sold,—the trees having come to full maturity at the age of seventy years. The ground on which they grew has been trenched, and is now bearing excellent crops.

*Rent.*—Many of the proprietors farm their own properties; but a fair average rent of the arable land in the parish is considered by good judges to be L. 2, 2s. per Scots acre, or L. 1, 13s. 3½d. per imperial acre, and of the uncultivated ground to be 5s. per Scots acre, or about 4s. per imperial acre. According to this estimate, the rent of the parish is L. 3056, 14s. 2d. The average rent of grazing is at the rate of L. 3 for an ox; L. 3, 10s. for a cow; 12s. for a ewe or full-grown sheep for the year; and L. 5 for a mare and foal.

*Rate of Wages.*—Unmarried ploughmen receive each from L. 10 to L. 12 in money, and six bolls and half of oatmeal, Dutch weight, annually, and a Scotch pint of milk daily, as it comes from the cow. They are lodged in bothies. Married ploughmen receive each annually about L. 10, 10s., the same quantity of meal and milk, a free house and garden, the driving of their coals, and about 27 falls of ground for planting potatoes. This small por-



tion of ground generally produces as many potatoes as afford a sufficient supply for the family, and enable them to feed a pig. The foreman or principal servant receives in addition to the above from L. 1 to L. 3, and all the milk of a cow, instead of a pint of milk per day. Men employed as day-labourers receive each generally 1s. 6d. per day in summer, and 1s. 4d. in winter. Women when employed in the fields get each 8d. per day of nine hours work, but when taking up potatoes they receive 1s. per day and their dinner. Female domestic servants receive about L. 6 per annum. Shearers are paid for cutting and binding, wheat  $4\frac{1}{2}$ d. a threave, and for barley and oats  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. a threave. When the crops of grain are cut by the acre, the sum given per acre is 12s. Masons receive generally from 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d. per day of ten hours without victuals. The rate of mason work is, for Galloway dikes from 7s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. per rood of 36 square yards; for close dry stone dikes 10s. 6d.; for stone and lime dikes, from 16s. to L. 1; for rubble building, from L. 1, 8s. to L. 1, 12s. Smiths usually contract to do the work of the farmer by the pair of horses at L. 2 annually. This includes their shoeing, and keeping ploughs, harrows, grapes, and forks in good repair. Carpenters receive from 1s. 10d. to 2s. per day of ten hours and their victuals, or from 2s. 4d. to 2s. 6d. without victuals. The price of wood is, ash, 2s. per cubic foot, Scotch fir, 10d., larch fir, 1s. 2d., and elm, 2s.

*Prices.*—The price of different articles manufactured in the parish for the purposes of rural economy is, a two-horse cart with iron axle completely mounted, L. 10; a single horse cart do. L. 9; an iron two-horse plough, L. 3, 15s; do. with iron swingle-trees, L. 4, 10s; an iron grubber for drilled crops, L. 3, 3s; an iron drill harrow, L. 1, 10s; a pair of iron common harrows fully mounted with rider and swingle-trees of iron, L. 2, 10s; a pair of wooden common harrows, fully mounted with rider and swingle-trees of wood, L. 1, 14s. The wooden harrows in the parish are gradually giving place to those of iron, and iron ploughs are universally in use. There are in the parish eight thrashing machines worked by horses, every farm having one. The flail is entirely laid aside, except by those who have less than twelve acres of ground.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle are generally of the old Fife breed, which is greatly preferred by all the rearers of stock in the parish, except by one individual, who thinks more highly of the improved short horns or Teeswater, and whose lands, from being rich and well sheltered, are well adapted for them. The number of milk cows

in the parish is 70, and the number of cattle of all ages, including cows, is 346. The cattle are generally sold when fat, about three years of age. No particular attention is paid to the breed of horses. The number of horses of all ages is about 106. There are at present in the parish 13 scores of sheep. No decided preference is given to any particular breed. They are generally bought when young in the month of August, and sold when fat in the month of June of the following year.

*Husbandry.*—The most improved mode of husbandry is practised. A rotation of six is in general observed in cropping, viz. 1. summer fallow, potatoes, or turnips well manured; 2. wheat, the land half-manured; 3. barley, sown with perennial rye-grass; 4. grass; 5. grass; 6. oats. On very rich land there is frequently a rotation of four or five having one year's grass. On inferior land wheat is seldom sown; barley, with grass seeds, follows the turnips and potatoes. The turnips are manured with bone dust, and one-half is eaten on the field by sheep. Three crops of grass are frequently taken. In mossy ground, oats are sown with grass seeds in preference to barley. Where the green crop has been potatoes in one rotation, it is turnips in the next, so that the land may produce the same kind of crop as seldom as possible. When the half of the turnips is to be eaten on the field by sheep, all the two alternate rows are previously carted home for feeding cattle, and the remainder left for the sheep. When the turnips are not eaten on the field by sheep, another method has been practised within these few years of cutting off the shaws (leaves), and immediately ploughing them down in the ground. The good effects of adopting this method have been fully shewn by the excellence of the succeeding crop. The turnips which are usually raised in the parish are globe, to be used first, yellow next, and Swedes, which are least apt to be injured by the frost, last. The potatoes which are most generally raised are the Perth red. Many of them are exported for the London market, where this kind is in the greatest demand. The price given here, which is very much regulated by the price in London, varies from 5s. to 14s. per boll of five cwt.

It may be worthy of notice, that when, in the autumn of 1836, a severe frost, which set in early, and continued long, prevented the potato crop from being taken up in safety, George Tod, Esq. of Luthrie in this parish, allowed most of his potatoes to remain in the ground all winter, and took them up in the spring com-



paratively little injured. They were in consequence eagerly sought after for seed, and in due time produced an abundant crop. The weight of the different kinds of grain in the parish is as follows: Barley from 52 to 56 imperial pounds per bushel, average 53; wheat from 60 to 66, average 63; oats from 40 to 45, average 42.

*Raw Produce.*—

Wheat,	221	Imperial acres at $3\frac{1}{2}$ quarters, at 46s. per quarter,	L. 1779	1	0
Barley,	299	- $4\frac{1}{2}$ - 27s. - -	1816	8	6
Oats,	392	- $5\frac{1}{2}$ - 21s. - -	2263	16	0
Pease,	22	- $2\frac{1}{2}$ - 23s. 6d. - -	64	12	6
Potatoes,	149	at 27 bolls of 5 cwts. each at 9s. - -	1810	7	0
Turnips,	155	at L. 5, 10s. per imperial acre, - -	852	10	0
Hay,	170	at 160 stones per imperial acre at 8d. - -	906	13	4
Pasture,	371	at L. 2 per imperial acre, - - -	742	0	0
Permanent					
pasture,	276	at 4s. per imperial acre, - - -	55	4	0
Thinning					
of wood,	204	- - - - -	20	0	0
Fallow,	24				
Roads, &c.	41				

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Total impe-					
rial acres,	2324	- - - - -	L. 10,310	12	4

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The above is calculated by the average of the fair prices for the last seven years, but the grain in this parish, being better than the average of the county, may be considered as 1s. per quarter of more value.

The greater part of the parish is inclosed partly with hedges and partly with stone dikes. More inclosures are in progress, and, from the present disposition of the proprietors and tenants, it is probable that all the grounds in the parish will be inclosed at no distant period.

The common duration of leases is nineteen years; a period which meets with general approbation, unless where great improvements are to be made upon a farm, when it should be longer, to afford time to the farmer to reap the benefit of what he has expended on improvements.

*Farm-Buildings.*—The farm-houses are generally good, and the steadings are suitable and commodious. Since the former Statistical Account was published, at least 200 imperial acres of waste land have been brought by draining, trenching, and liming, into a state of high cultivation, and to produce excellent crops. There has been draining also to a considerable extent in lands which have long been under the plough, and the results have been very beneficial. The late Mr William Reid, tenant of Parbroath, who was highly esteemed as a skilful agriculturist and an intelligent upright

man, practised on his farm, upwards of twenty years ago, the present approved mode of furrow-draining, with great success. More draining is necessary, and the farmers, who are well aware of its advantages, are carrying it on in the most approved and judicious manner. Deep ploughing is resorted to, in order to renew the soil, and to get it cleared of stones.

*Quarries.*—There is an excellent quarry of basaltic clinkstone on East Luthrie, the property of George Tod, Esq. with stones from which many of the houses in the parish and neighbourhood have been built. On Carphin, the property of C. B. Raitt, Esq. there is a gray sandstone quarry. Particulars regarding these quarries are stated in the account of the Geology of the parish.

*Manufactures.*—The chief branch of manufacture is hand-loom weaving. Osnaburghs, brown and plain white sheetings, and dowlas of almost all qualities, are worked here. Two resident manufacturers, and some resident agents of manufacturers in Cupar and Newburgh, give employment to all the weavers in the parish, and to many in the neighbourhood. The average quantity of cloth woven by them annually, as I am informed by one of the manufacturers after a careful examination, is 177,200 yards, the value of which is L. 5293, 6s. 8d. Of this quantity, 84,000 yards are woven by the weavers employed by the resident manufacturers, the value of which is L. 2916, 13s. 4d., and the sum given for weaving which, is about L. 612, 10s. The price of all the weaving at  $1\frac{3}{4}$ d. per yard is L. 1292, 1s. 8d. The number of weavers of all ages in the parish is 39, of whom 27 are males and 12 are females, and there are 19 winders all females. The average income of each of the weavers is about 7s. per week throughout the year; good hands from 9s. to 10s. They work about fourteen hours per day. A winder receives 6d. per day when employed, but the employment is not constant. Since the introduction of machinery the spinning-wheel has been almost entirely laid aside, as no adequate remuneration for labour can be procured by it. There is but one in operation in the parish, and that one only occasionally.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest is Cupar, which is distant from the centre of the parish about five miles.

*Villages.*—There are two villages, Luthrie and Brunton, which are pleasantly situated, and at the distance of a mile from each other. The former contains a population of 145, and the latter



of 91. The inhabitants are chiefly weavers and other handicraft tradesmen. In the village of Luthrie are a brewery, a bakehouse, a small public-house, a meal-mill, and a barley-mill.

*Means of Communication.*—There is a regular communication with Cupar, which is the nearest post-town, on Thursdays and Saturdays, and with Dundee, on Fridays, by carriers of small parcels. A turnpike road, between the ferries of Pettycur and Newport, passes through the parish on the south, and along by its southern boundary about a mile and a half, and the turnpike from Cupar to Perth intersects it on the south-west. A statute labour road leads on from the ferry turnpike through the parish eastward to Balmerino, and another leads off from it at Luthrie westwards, and on through the barony of Balenbreich to Newburgh. The length of the former in the parish is 2 miles 450 yards, and of the latter 1 mile 160 yards.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, which is a new and handsome edifice, was first opened for public worship on the 16th December 1832. It is situated on a small eminence above the village of Luthrie, near to the greater part of the population, and not above two miles from the most distant. It was built to contain 252 sittings. These were divided among the heritors according to their valued rents, and the division was sanctioned by the sheriff. The heritors, after having accommodated themselves with seats, gave those which remained free to their tenants, servants, and others. It would have been desirable, however, had a considerable portion of the sittings been set apart for the public; for although there would be a sufficiency of accommodation were every seat well filled, yet some individuals are unable to procure sittings, and there is a natural dislike to intrude into the seats which have previously been obtained by others.

*Legacy.*—The late Mr George Davidson, schoolmaster of the parish, who died in 1745, bequeathed the sum of 450 merks Scots to the Session for the purpose of purchasing communion cups; and two handsome plain silver cups, which were bought with that sum, are now used at the communion service.

A stable has been erected near the church for the horses of those who choose to ride, or to come to church in their conveyances, and a gig-house has been built for the accommodation of the minister.

The manse and offices were built in 1816, and are suitable and commodious. They are pleasantly situated, but at an extremity

of the parish, and at the distance of a mile from the church. The glebe consists of about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  acres of thin sharp soil, and its yearly value is about L. 8. The stipend consists of 1 boll, 3 firlots, and  $3\frac{1}{3}$  lippies, wheat; 8 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks barley; 3 bolls, 1 firlot,  $3\frac{1}{3}$  lippies meal; 6 bolls, 1 firlot, 2 pecks,  $1\frac{2}{3}$  lippies oats; and L. 209, 15s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in money.

There is no Dissenting chapel in the parish. The number of families belonging to the Established Church is 84, and the number of individuals of all ages belonging to the Established Church is 380. The number of families of Dissenters is 10. The number of individuals of all ages of Dissenters is 45. Divine service at the Established Church is generally well attended. The number of communicants at the Established Church, taking the average of the last seven years, is 198.

This parish has contributed liberally for religious and charitable purposes.

*Education.*—The parochial school is the only one in the parish. The usual branches of education are taught in it, and in a manner which reflects credit upon Mr Miller, the present schoolmaster, as being an able, diligent, and successful teacher. The school is generally attended in the winter months by about 65, and in the summer by about 50. The fees per quarter for English reading are 2s., and for writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, and mathematics, 6d. each additional, and for Latin 5s. The children usually enter school at from four to six years of age, and leave it at from ten to thirteen. The people in general are alive to the benefits of education, and parents, in particular, are very desirous to procure a good education for their families. When, from poverty, any are unable to do so, the session is always ready to assist them, and there is none in the parish above eight years of age who cannot read. The schoolmaster has the legal accommodations of a dwelling-house, school-room, and garden. He has the maximum salary, school fees amounting to about L. 18 per annum, and the yearly interest of L. 2000 merks Scots.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving regular parochial aid is 5. They receive according to their circumstances, each usually from 1s. to 1s. 6d. per week, and each family a cart-load of coals at the beginning of winter. Occasional aid is always afforded to a few, and to some there is given merely a cart-load of coals during the year. The tenants and resident proprietors give the driving of all the coals gratis.



The parochial funds from which the wants of the poor are supplied consist of collections at church, amounting annually on an average of the last five years, to L. 12, 1s. 1d.; of proclamation fees, to 13s. 9½d.; of mortcloth fees, L. 1, 2s. 3d.; and of rent of land and houses, and interest of money,\* to L. 20, 5s. 10d.; in all, L. 34, 2s. 11½d. There exists among the poor in general a laudable spirit of independence, which renders them reluctant to apply for parochial aid, and the acceptance of which they consider as degrading.

*Alehouses.*—There is only one in the parish, which is evidently necessary and quite sufficient for the accommodation of the public.

*Fuel.*—The common fuel is coal, which is partly driven from the pits at Balbirnie and Orr Bridge, a distance of from eleven to thirteen miles from the centre of the parish, and partly from Balmerino, a distance of five miles, whither it is imported from Newcastle and Alloa.

The price at Balmerino of English coals is from 4s. 6d. to 5s. 9d. per boll of 42 stones, or six cwt. and of Scotch coals at about 6s. per boll of 56 stones or 8 cwt. The present price of coals at Balbirnie is 1s. 6d. per load of 18 stones, and at Orr Bridge is 1s. 3d. per load of 28 stones. Many of the poorer classes use considerable quantities of wood for fuel, which they get from the neighbouring plantations.

\* Of this money, L. 100 Sterling were bequeathed for behoof of the poor by the late Colonel and Mrs Baillie of Luthrie, and L. 50 by the late David Gillespie, Esq. of Kirkton.

*November 1838.*

# PARISH OF MARKINCH.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. J. SIEVERIGHT, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries.*—MARKINCH is bounded on the north, by the parishes of Falkland and Kettle; on the south, by Dysart and Wemyss; and on the east, by Kennoway and Leven. The general form of the parish is quadrilateral, the lines of boundary being pretty regular, except on the eastern side, which is deeply indented by the parish of Kennoway.\*

*Name.*—The church and village of Markinch are situated on the summit and declivity of a gentle eminence, which, at a remote period, has, doubtless, been surrounded by water, but in more recent times, by a deep morass, which, though now drained, and in many parts covered with buildings, may still be distinctly traced throughout its original extent. If it is considered, then, that, at the commencement of the present era, the whole country was covered with a dense and impenetrable forest,—the appropriateness of the name will be sufficiently apparent, *Mark* or *Mærk*, in the language of Scandinavia, signifying a *forest*, and *Ynys* or *Insch*, in ancient Celtic, an *island*.—hence the Celto-Pictish name Markinch or “Island of the Forest.”†

Within the insular limits we have thus described, are included the knoll or eminence on which the church stands, towards the south; and Markinch hill, towards the north;—the two being connected by a sloping ridge, along the summit and sides of which, the primitive habitations were necessarily constructed; but since the

\* There has lately been published a well executed map of the parish by Mr James Frazer, land-surveyor in Markinch.

† The more ancient orthography is *Merkinch*. In West. Goth. *Mærke* signifies a *limit* or *boundary*—the Anglo-Saxon, *Mearc*, the same,—thus, *Mearc-land*, confinium, *fines terræ*—but both, we apprehend, are derived from *Mark*, *sylva*, as the radical word—forests in ancient times often forming the principal boundaries between different countries and states. and their minor territorial subdivisions. This is one of the few words, which, with little variation in sound or orthography, are found in most languages, ancient and modern. West. Goth. *Mark*, *Marke*, *sylva*, *nota*, *times*. Fin. *Merki*; Ang. Sax. *Mearc*; Isl. *Mark*, *Mörk*; Ger. *Marck*; Engl. *Mark*; Belg. *Mærk*; Welsh, *Marc*; Armor. *Marc*; Fr. *Marque*; Sp. and Ital. *Marca*; Pers. *Marz*.



drainage of the marshy ground in the neighbourhood, the village has extended itself on all sides, and now contains a population of 1300 inhabitants. Being neither a royal burgh, however, nor burgh of barony, its annually chosen magistracy is but a nominal thing; while want of funds, and much more of the authority necessary to levy an assessment, has hitherto prevented the adoption of those measures of internal police and embellishment, which are really indispensable to the health and comfort of a crowded and increasing population.

*Extent.*—The extent of the parish is about 6 miles in length by 5 in breadth. Its superficial area may be estimated at 10,200 imperial acres.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The general aspect of the country is varied and picturesque. From the Lomond Hills, as a background on the north, it slopes gently toward the south and east. The parish is intersected by four fertile valleys, watered by as many streams, which unite towards the eastern extremity. The valleys are separated by corresponding ridges of low hills; each chain rising gradually above the other in the direction of the summit level. Nor are thriving and extensive plantations wanting to heighten the natural beauties of the landscape,—and the varied succession of hill and dale. The proportion of wood is considerable, and being principally of the ornamental kind, and in the vicinity of gentlemen's seats and villas, it is so disposed as to produce the most favourable effect.

*Geology.*—In this department we shall confine ourselves to a plain statement of facts, abstaining as much as possible from speculative conclusions, and avoiding all reference to conflicting theories.

We first notice the remarkable range of low hills, composed of fine sand and water-worn stones, skirting the northern side of the valley of the Leven. These hills vary in height, generally according to their distance from the course of the stream, or lowest level. Those of them that are isolated and detached, form an acute angle with the axis of the valley; that is, supposing the valley of the Leven to run in a south-easterly direction, the eminences in question extend lengthways, almost due east and west. The southern slope will be found to be in almost all instances very gradual, while the declivity towards the north is as invariably bold and abrupt. Hence, if our observations are correct, we think

the conclusion obvious, that these elevations have been generated by the action of a tidal wave, ascending in the direction of Loch Leven, and having a lateral action diverging from the Frith of Forth, as the central line of direction of the great tidal stream. Hazarding the opinion, that these hills were formed by the action of an ebbing and flowing current, we find undeniable proofs of marine agency in the marl beds which lie within a few feet of the surface, at the distance of less than a mile from the parish church. These beds vary in thickness from 3 to 4 feet, and consist entirely of marine shells, among which the *Mytilus*, *Buccinum*, and *Cardium aculeatum* predominate. In connection with this fact, we have to notice the incredible numbers of water worn-boulders, of all sizes and dimensions, found upon and near the surface, or imbedded in the diluvial clay of which the subsoil is composed. These rolled masses comprehend most varieties of the primitive rocks, among which, basalt, greenstone, and porphyry predominate. Granite, gneiss, and micaceous schist are next in the order of abundance. None of these rocks are found *in situ* for many miles, and then only in a westerly direction. The clay in which these boulders are imbedded, is nearly, if not altogether, devoid of organic remains, while their appearance clearly betrays long exposure to the action of a powerful current. Whence, and in what manner, these boulders were brought into their present position, and in such incredible numbers, it is difficult to conjecture; unless we may suppose that they have been transported thither by a powerful current flowing from the westward, continuous in duration, rather than of the nature of a sudden and transient eruption. This conjecture derives countenance from the fact, that the boulders are imbedded in the clay at various depths, and that those of them that belong to the trap family, differ very materially in their character, from the great trap vein or dike by which the parish is intersected from east to west, and which is of the porphyritic kind, spotted with nodules of sulphuret of iron, and with micaceous laminæ. This remarkable dike is traceable from the Leven, about a mile south of the village, intersecting the Balgonie coal-field, in a straight line to Kingsdale, near Kennoway, where it is protruded. At the point where it crosses the Balbirnie coal basin, near Plasterer's Inn, it is said to form a solid compact mass, 30 feet in thickness. In approaching the trap, the coal is thrown up in a remarkable manner, till at last it is cut off altogether. A bore carried down to the depth of 100 yards



on the south side of the dike, traversed successive beds of clay, sand, and gravel, but no indications of coal or of rock of any kind were discovered. The trap is projected through the great bed of sandstone, on which the whole of this part of the country reposes.

*Sandstone.*—The consistency of this rock varies from a minute breccia to the utmost degree of fineness and hardness; the colour from a deep yellow to the purest white. The colouring matter is derived from iron in a state of chromate, with which the superincumbent soil is strongly impregnated. The dip of the sandstone beds seems to depend almost entirely on accidental circumstances. The strata are found in all positions from the horizontal to the vertical. In many instances, it is found in what the quarrymen term *lunearts*, that is, in solid cone-shaped masses of immense dimensions, unstratified, and without cleavage in any direction. In this state, on being broken up, the surfaces often present a blistered or *sintry* appearance. But this is peculiar to the fine-grained and harder qualities of the sandstone. The coarser sort is regularly stratified in layers of uniform thickness, easily separated by means of the wedge and lever. It is in this kind that organic remains are almost exclusively found. These remains consist of cacti, and trunks of trees protruded perpendicularly; the roots reposing sometimes on the coal beds below, but for the most part without trace of branches or leaves. Impressions, however, of the bark, branches, and leaves of trees are not unfrequent on the surface of the strata.

*Organic Remains.*—With regard to fossils, we may state that vegetable remains are found in the greatest abundance and variety in the softer bituminous and harder shales, and in the slate clays. They comprehend principally impressions of the leaves and stems of plants, and are common, we believe, to the whole coal-field on the eastern shores of Fife.

*Mineralogy.*—Besides the concrete and stratified rocks already briefly enumerated, the department of mineralogy supplies specimens of rock crystal containing various extraneous substances. Crystals of quartz of great beauty are occasionally found in the sandstone and trap rocks; to these may be added, though more rarely, nodules of agate, carnelian, chalcedony, and jasper.\*

*Ironstone.*—Ironstone is found in the parish in great abundance.

\* For more minute details on the Geology and Mineralogy of this part of the country, the reader is referred to Mr Landale's excellent Prize Essay on the Geology of the East Coast of Fife. Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, Vol. xi. 1837.

Soon after the publication of the last Statistical Report, a company from Newcastle, projected an iron-work on the Balgonie estate. Much expense was incurred, and the scheme had a sufficient trial, but ultimately proved unsuccessful, and the enterprising individuals engaged in it suffered considerable loss. It has long since been abandoned. The stone, however, containing in some portions as much as 80 per cent. ore, has frequently been exported to the Tyne for smelting. At present the working of it interferes with a seam of coal, and is entirely suspended.

*Balbirnie Coal.*—The coal so denominated lies on both banks of the Leven, principally on the estate of Balbirnie, but partly in the lands of Rothes and Coull, in one continuous seam. A portion of the field belonging to the Earl of Rothes has at different times been leased to the proprietor of Balbirnie, who possesses peculiar advantages for working it, as the greater portion of the coal that is level free, and also more than half the under level, are in the Balbirnie estate. This coal was wrought at a very remote period, but not extensively, previously to the year 1730,—when the nature of the field was more accurately ascertained by means of bores,—proceeding from the old wastes in the direction of the river, from whence a mine carried across the metals, rendered the field level free to a very considerable extent. In fact, no other means of drainage seems to have been resorted to for a period of forty years, during which time upwards of 365,000 tons of coals are computed to have been raised and sold. The Balbirnie coal is now drained by means of water-engines on the Leven; that on Coull by a steam-engine.

The field is somewhat irregular in shape, but approaches most nearly the figure of an ellipse or horse-shoe. It is what is called a *Trough Coal*. The dip of the Balbirnie seams is very irregular. On the east side it is sometimes 45°, on the west 12°. The seams are three in number, and in thickness as follows:—1st, Upper coal, a soft cherry, 1 foot 6 inches; 2d, Main seam, cherry and splint, 4 feet 6 inches; 3d, Under coal, cherry, 2 feet.

The following is a section of the strata passed through in sinking a bore on the south crop, near Newton Bridge, about half a mile from the village of Markinch:

	Fath.	Ft.	In.		Fath.	Ft.	In.
1. Surface, -	0	1	6	4. Gravel bed, -	0	4	6
2. Sand, mixed with gravel, -	1	0	4	5. Dark blue bleas, -	0	1	0
3. Brown clay, mixed with whinstone, -	7	3	8	6. Whitish fire clay, -	0	2	6
				7. White freestone with partings, -	2	3	8



	Fath.	Ft.	In.		Fath.	Ft.	In.
8. White soft till, -	0	2	7	15. Bleas, with gray free-			
9. Bleas, with gray free-				stone bands, -	1	0	0
stone bands, -	2	1	1	16. Blue-coloured bleas,	0	3	6½
10. Grayish freestone, with				17. Coal, -	0	1	0
partings, -	1	4	8	18. Brownish freestone,	0	1	2
11. Dark-coloured parting, 0	0	0	3	19. Coal splint, -	0	1	11
12. Gray freestone, with				20. Soft blea parting, -	0	0	4
parting, -	0	3	10	21. Coal, -	0	3	3½
13. Coal, -	0	1	10				
14. Black-coloured till, 0	0	0	5½	Fathoms,	21	1	1½

But the strata vary in thickness, as well as the coal seams, at different points in the field. In general the depths from the surface to the different seams may be set down as follows:—From surface to upper seam, 17½ fathoms; to main coal, 23 do.; to under coal, 30 do.

At Balbirnie the engine is erected on the main seam, with a draft of 25 fathoms, two fathoms being cut below the coal for what is called a *sump* or well, so that there are no shafts 30 fathoms deep. Cuts are carried right and left from the bottom of the shaft to the upper and under seams, the depth being 25 fathoms, or 50 yards, as noted above. This engine stands on the lowest part of the seam, the coal rising on either side of it. The whole field is thus rendered accessible to the miner, if we except about twenty acres of the lower seam, which can only be drained by an addition of power to the water-engine, and by sinking the shaft seven fathoms deeper. Various bores have been made with a view to the discovery of new seams of coal, but without success. One in particular, from the pavement of the main coal, near the centre of the coal-field, was carried down to the depth of 67 feet 4 inches, till interrupted by a bed of stone, so hard, that in a whole week only six inches were bored through, and the attempt was, therefore, relinquished.

The average price of Balbirnie coal may be stated at 8s. per ton; but the price varies according to the quality.

The colliers, in addition to their daily earnings, are allowed a free house and garden. Coals for their own use are charged to them at the hewing rate. The following table will give a comparative view of the rate of wages for the years specified. We premise that a single collier is reckoned to hew at an average ten loads per diem.

Years,	1770 to	1780 to	1790 to	1800 to	1810 to	1820 to	1830 to
	1779.	1789.	1799.	1809.	1819.	1829.	1839.
Price per load, .	2d.	2½d.	2¾d.	3½d.	3¾d.	3¾d.	3¾d.
Wages per diem,	1s. 8d.	2s. 1d.	2s. 3½d.	2s. 11d.	3s. 1½d.	3s. 1½d.	3s. 1½d.

*Dislocations and Obstructions.*—The trap dike by which the Balbirnie coal-field is intersected, has already been noticed under the section of Geology, as well as its effects in throwing up and cutting off the coal seams. A similar vein of trap cuts off the coal to the north of Coull engine. Occasional hitches are met with in all parts of the field, raising or depressing the strata, but without offering any very serious obstacles to the operations of the miner. The upper coal being only 18 inches in thickness, and the difficulty of sufficiently enlarging the galleries, from the nature of the strata in immediate contact with it, being very considerable, the men suffer severely from a confined and hampered position, and from bad air, so that their general health and appearance are thereby, in process of time, sensibly affected. Asthma and consumption are the complaints to which they are most liable, and at the age of thirty many of them look old men. Formerly, when engaged on the main seam, many reached the ages of sixty, seventy, and eighty. Now, what with the thin seams, bad air, and an unguarded use of ardent spirits, it is rare to find an old man among them.

*Balgonie Coal*, the property of James Balfour, Esq. of Whittingham, has been worked for centuries. In the old valuation of the county in the year 1517, Coaltoun is mentioned as one of "the pertinents" of Balgonie. The waste may be traced for several miles along the line of bearing, and the coals have been exhausted in the same direction to a depth of 14 fathoms, as far as the free level admitted. In 1731, a water engine was erected, which drained the coal to the depth of 30 fathoms, but in succeeding years, this engine was overpowered by the increased accumulation of water from hitches, and the tacksman to whom the field had been leased substituted a windmill farther on the crop. Operations were carried on in this way till the year 1743, when it was found impossible any longer to compete in the market with the Balbirnie coals, and the working was consequently relinquished. This suspension continued for more than forty years, till at last, in 1785, more powerful engines were erected, and the coal throughout the whole field rendered accessible to the former depth of 30 fathoms, but still only reaching to the 9 feet or upper seam. This coal is presently worked at Thornton, near the bridge of Orr, by steam power. The Balgonie is known to be a continuation of the Dysart coal. The strata dip towards the south-east, and consequently crop out in north-westerly direction, at an angle of from 25° to



21°, or a rise of 1 in  $2\frac{1}{2}$  or 3; but the angle varies at different points; in the field at Thornton, for instance, the rise is only  $7\frac{1}{2}^\circ$  or about 1 in 8.

There are two seams of coal along the whole line of bearing; the depth on the level is from 25 to 35 fathoms to the first, or what is commonly called the 9 feet seam, which consists of

	Ft.	In.	
1. Splint coal,	2	0	
2. White Daulk stone,	0	6	Hard at first, but falls when exposed to weather.
3 Spar coal,	1	3	
4. Same as second	0	4	
5. Head coal,	3	4	
6. Stone as second	0	8	} not wrought.
7. Bottom coal,	4	4	
	12	5	
Deduct 2, 4, 6 stone,	1	6	

Thickness of coal, Feet 10 11

But a material alteration takes place in the thickness of the Balgonie upper seam after crossing the hitch at Thornton. On the south or Dysart side of that point the total thickness increases to 13 feet 10 inches as follows:

	Ft.	In.	
1. Splint coal,	2	0	
2. Daulk stone,	0	6	} Roof.
3. Spar coal,	1	3	
4. Stone,	0	4	
5. Head coal,	3	10	
6. Mid stone,	0	8	
7. Bottom coal,	5	2	
8. Ground stone,	0	8	} Pavement.
9. Ground coal,	1	7	
	Feet 16	0	
Deduct stone, Nos. 2, 4, 6, 8,	2	2	
Thickness of coal,	Feet 13	10	

The second seam, commonly called the seven feet coal, lies 10 fathoms below the nine feet coal above-mentioned, or to a depth of 35 to 45 fathoms on the level. It consists of

	Ft.	In.	
1. Head coal,	1	2	
2. Head stone,	0	6	
3. Bottom coal,	1	10	
4. Stone,	0	10	
5. Road coal,	1	0	
6. Stone,	0	6	
7. Rough coal,	1	2	
	Feet 7	0	
Deduct stone, Nos. 2, 4, 6,	1	10	
Thickness of coal,	Feet 5	2	

The common mode of working the coal at Thornton is what is

technically termed "stoop and througher." The working rooms are 13 feet wide, and the pillars 15 feet; the width of the rooms contracting on nearing the crop, or where the roof is insecure.

The average number of colliers employed may be stated at 30. They are paid at the rate of  $2\frac{1}{2}$ d. per load of 20 stones Dutch, for large coal, which sells at 1s. per load. The small coal costs  $1\frac{1}{4}$ d. per load for hewing, and sells at 6d. The sale was originally confined to the country demand, but latterly the manufactories on the Leven and Orr waters, and in Kirkaldy, have drawn their supplies from hence. With more powerful engines for drawing off the water, the coal seams on Balgonie may be regarded as inexhaustible, as they dip to the east, and are never found to rise to the surface in a direction opposite to the line of bearing.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Antiquities.—Markinch Hill.*—This remarkable hill, on the southern slope of which the village is partly built, is an object alike interesting to the geologist and the antiquary. It is composed of a fine sand, intermixed with water-worn stones, and rises to the height of about 100 feet above the level ground in the vicinity, extending in a continuous ridge from east to west about 300 yards. At either extremity it sinks abruptly, and is flanked by two smaller eminences, that to the west terminating in the marshy ground along the line of Balbirnie Park wall, while that on the east is separated from Dalginch Law by a deep and narrow ravine, through which Balbirnie burn flows. The southern slope of the hill is sufficiently gradual, but on the northern side it is naturally precipitous, and has been rendered more so by the labours of art. The whole of this side of the hill from the base upwards is cut into terraces, which seem to have been continued round its extremities. On that towards the east, indeed, they may be still distinctly traced, but towards the west they are obliterated, the hill having been cut down, partly to allow a passage for the road, and partly for the purpose of obtaining sand and gravel. These terraces, six in number, are of an average breadth of 20 feet, and rise each above the other in regular gradation from 10 to 12 feet. They overlook a level field of about twelve acres, which, before being drained, must have formed an impassable morass. There is no very definite tradition why or when these terraces were formed. The most probable conclusion is, that they are the work of the Roman invaders, who, under Agricola, overran this part of the country, covering it with entrenchments and fortifications, as a



basis for more distant operations. For advancing this opinion in preference to any other, our reasons are briefly these:—1st, *In a military point of view*, and according to the modes of warfare then in use, the position is one of the strongest which the whole country affords. The natural advantages of its situation, indeed, must have rendered it nearly impregnable with but a handful of defenders, while, as a fortified camp, it was capable of receiving several legions. 2dly, It forms one of a chain of similar fastnesses, most advantageously situated for commanding the surrounding country, for mutual support, and for keeping up a direct communication with the coast and with the interior. 3d, The extent of the works above described, the great amount of labour and industry required for their completion, and, above all, their form and regularity, so little in unison with the rude and desultory habits of the aboriginal inhabitants, and so unsuited to their savage modes of warfare; while in all these respects they very exactly characterize the enterprise and skill of their invaders, and their superior advancement in the art of defensive warfare.

*Maiden Castle.*—At the eastern extremity of the parish, and in the immediate vicinity of the village of Kennoway, are to be seen the vestiges of ancient fortifications, running along a narrow but somewhat elevated ridge of sand-hills, commanding the surrounding plain. In the case of an invasion from seaward this would naturally have been regarded as the first defensible position, being scarcely two miles from the mouth of the Leven, and forming the key to the interior of the country towards the north and west. Whether the Scots, Romans, or Danes were its first occupants it is now impossible to determine. That it has been the scene of some bloody conflict is evident from the number of stone-coffins containing human bones, that have been dug up in the immediate neighbourhood. Farther westward, in the direction of Markinch, weapons of war, peculiar to the Romans, have from time to time been found. The highest point of the ridge in question rises to the height of perhaps 80 feet above the small stream which runs at the foot of it. On this knoll, the Pretorium or citadel, known by the name of the Maiden Castle, has stood. Its form has been that of a square, and it measures about 30 paces across. According to Boethius, this was a castle of Macduff, Thane of Fife. His description of it is sufficiently precise, and is valuable as the only plausible record concerning a spot, that has once evidently been of some importance. “Supersunt inter Divi Kenethi templum et

Levenam annem, eadem in regione, arcis septemvallis olim septæ totidemque fossis uti nunc est videre, vestigia ; ubi hujus clarissimi viri post eum vitâ functum posteritas longa secula habitavit.”\*

Dalginch, which lies to the east of the village of Markinch, at the distance of a quarter of a mile, is the reputed site of another of Macduff's castles. Its more modern name is Brunton,† and a subterraneous opening from the present house, but which has long been closed, is said, in popular tradition, to communicate with the Maiden Castle above-mentioned, which is distant in a straight line between two and three miles. The supposition is too absurd to admit of being reasoned upon. However, that, at a comparatively recent period, Dalginch was a place of considerable note, will appear by the following extract from the Ancient Digest of Scottish Laws, known by the name of *Regiam Majestatem*, ascribed, we believe, to the usurper Macbeth.

“ Ad quæ loca tenentur Warranti venire.”

C.XX.

“ Hæc sunt loca ad quæ warranti debent venire ut res calumniatas legitime warrantereat. In Gowrie, apud *Sconam*. In Star-month, apud *Cluny*, &c. In Fife, apud *Dalginche*. Hæc sunt loca capitalia Scotia comitatum per totum regnum.”‡

*Family Seats*.—The most ancient residence of note in the parish is the Castle of Balfour or Bal-orr, so designated from its situation near the confluence of the Orr and the Leven. It was originally the seat of the family of Balfour, who thence derive their name,—one of the most ancient and respectable in Fife. About the year 1360, John de Bethune, described as “familiaris regis Roberti,” married the daughter and heiress of Sir Michael de Balfour of that ilk, and with her obtained the estate of Balfour. The Bethunes are undoubtedly of French extraction, and are reputed to derive their name from Bethune, a considerable town in French Flanders. They came into England with William the Conqueror. One of them was the companion of Richard Cœur

\* Boeth. Hist. Lib. x. fol. 206.

† Now called Barnslee, the seat of Mrs Colonel Paston.

‡ In the edition of the *Regiam Majestatem*, anno 1606, the following note is inscribed in the margin :—“ N. B. Terræ de Dalginche pertinebant olim Jacobo Cockburn, tempore Jacobi II. Regis, nunc dicuntur terræ de Bruntoun, et per Wardlaw dominum de Torrie possidentur et sunt contiguæ terris de Markinche.”—How long Dalginche continued a principal seat of justice we have no means of ascertaining ; probably as long as the Thanes of Fife maintained an independent jurisdiction. Markinche must have been a place of some note as late as 1296, in which year it was visited by Edward I. in his progress from St Andrews to Stirling, as we learn from the Diary of his expedition, (Cott. Coll. in old French, quoted apud Tytler, Hist. of Scotland, Vol. i.) his first stage being Markinch, and his next Dunfermline.



de Lion during his return from the Holy Land, and was made prisoner along with him by the Duke of Austria. Duchesne in his "*Histoire de la Maison de Bethune*," derives the Scotch branch from a certain Jacobin de Bethune, who, he says, came to Scotland about 1448; but there are authentic documents to prove that the family were settled in this country as far back as 1165. Those of them whose names are most distinguished in history are James Beaton, Archbishop, first of Glasgow, and afterwards of St Andrews, and Chancellor of the kingdom. St Mary's or New College, founded in 1537, remains a monument of this prelate's munificence and zeal for learning. He died in 1538, and was succeeded by his nephew, David Beaton, Cardinal, Legatus à latere, and Chancellor, assassinated by Norman Lesley and his associates, May 3d 1546. A nephew of the Cardinal, James Beaton, was elevated to the see of Glasgow. Our limits do not permit us to enter at greater length into the annals of this ancient and honourable house. It may not, however, be deemed superfluous to remark, that the estate of Balfour has been transmitted, in the direct line of hereditary succession, for the space of 480 years, and in the direct male line for upwards of four centuries.

Westward from Balfour, and on a steep bank overhanging the Leven, stands the ancient baronial Castle of Balgonie. The most ancient part of this venerable structure consists of a *donjon* or keep, 80 feet in height, and 45 feet by 36 over walls. The basement story, dimly lighted by a single narrow slit in the massive thickness of the walls, seems to have served as a prison. It is vaulted, as well as the storey above. The summit is surrounded by slightly projecting battlements, with circular *tourelles* at the angles. The roof is flat, and paved with square slabs of freestone. On the terrace thus formed, and several feet within the external battlements, on three of the sides is erected a lodge of an oblong form, with chimnies and sloping roof, serving probably in former times as a *corps de garde* for the garrison. Along the bank, looking northward, the first Earl of Leven erected a house of three stories, communicating with the tower, and a wing fronting east was added by one of his successors, but, from the unusual solidity of the substructions, and from the range of cellars which they comprehend, in structure evidently far from modern, it is to be conjectured, that buildings equal in extent originally occupied the site of the present edifice, constituting, as now, two sides of a quadrangle; the other two sides being formed by a strong wall of ma-

sonry. The space thus enclosed forms an oblong area of 108 feet by 65. The main entrance into the court is by an arched gateway, flanked on each side by towers, which bear marks of having been at one time provided with battlements and machieoulis. Over the arch are the remains of a chamber, communicating with the tower by a narrow passage conducted in the thickness of the wall. The castle has once been surrounded on three sides by a deep fosse, and a strong rampart of earth. On the side of the river no defence was needed other than the inaccessible nature of its position. With all these stern appliances and means to provoke assault and to resist aggression, history records no tale of siege sustained, nor doughty feats of arms performed under its walls, or within the fair and ample domain by which it is surrounded,—nor are its precincts stained by any of those deeds of blood or torture which throw an interesting gloom over so many similar monuments of feudal times. The earliest proprietors of Balgonie, of whom there is any record, are the Sibbalds. It afterwards passed by intermarriage to a cadet of the family of Lundin. In the reign of Charles I. the lands of Balgonie were purchased by General Alexander Leslie, who was created Earl of Leven by that hapless monarch, with succession to heirs-general of his body, lawfully begotten. Owing to the failure of male heirs in the person of Alexander, third Earl of Leven, the title and estates devolved to his sister, Lady Catherine Leslie, who was married to the second son of the then Earl of Melville, and became Countess of Leven in her own right. By the death of his elder brother, the Lord Raith, her husband succeeded to his paternal title and inheritance, thus uniting the two earldoms in one family. In 1823, the beautiful and extensive estate of Balgonie was purchased for the sum of L. 104,000, by James Balfour, Esq. of Whittingham, brother of the late General Balfour of Balbirnie, who, it is understood, designs to rebuild the castle, at present fast hastening to decay, on a scale answerable to his ample fortune, and the ancient grandeur of the pile.

The principal seat of the Balfours was the castle of that name, as already mentioned. They reckon their descent from the time of King Duncan, and their names appear as sheriffs of Fife, and as present at successive Parliaments, down to the reign of Robert II. The ancestor of the Balbirnie branch was a cadet of Balfour of that Ilk; who, having married a daughter of Thomas Sibbald of Balgonie, obtained with her a grant of the lands of Dovon, in



the reign of Robert III. One of his descendants having obtained a charter of the lands of Lalethan from Lundin of that ilk in 1576, was designed of Lalethan, and afterwards of Balbirnie, acquired by purchase from a family of the same name.

Balbirnie House, now the property of John Balfour, Esq., is situated about a mile to the west of the parish church. The house is an elegant modern structure, erected by the late General Balfour. The principal entrance, which is on the south front, is by a handsome portico, formed by columns of the Ionic order, with corresponding pilasters. The whole materials were drawn from freestone quarries on the estate. The house is pleasantly situated in a romantic hollow, sheltered from every wind that blows by those detached and gently undulating eminences, which form so remarkable a feature in the scenery of the vale of Leven. These heights, clothed with some of the finest trees in the country, are rendered accessible on all sides by means of walks and alleys, so contrived, as to command at every turn varied and picturesque views of the surrounding country, from the Lomonds to the shores of the Frith of Forth, and the coast beyond. The shrubberies around the house, and along a small brook which meanders through the grounds on the east, are laid out with exquisite taste and effect, and contain, in great variety and profusion, such plants and shrubs, native and exotic, as are hardy enough to withstand the rigors of the winter. The park, including garden and shrubberies, extends over a surface of 200 acres. As a complete and elegant residence, Balbirnie is surpassed by few north of the Tweed.

The only other residence in the parish which deserves particular mention on account of its antiquity is Kirkforthar, the seat of George Johnstone Lindsay, Esq. a cadet of the noble and ancient family of Crawford. Kirkforthar formed part of the Lord Lindsay's ancient estate of Struthers, and became a separate branch in the following manner: David, Lord Lindsay of Byres, espoused the cause of King James III. in opposition to the views of his son, James IV., who was stirred up by the confederated nobles to become their leader in a foul and unnatural rebellion. Lord Lindsay commanded the father's adherents. The two hostile armies having met at Sauchieburn, a battle took place, which issued in the defeat and death of the unfortunate James III. Immediately after, Lord Lindsay was arraigned of high treason. Although he was an excellent soldier, and had great experience in the service of foreign states, yet he was but little gifted with court phraseology,

or versed in judicial procedure, and in his defence made a cutting and sarcastic speech, which drew down upon him the displeasure of the king and of his judges. But Patrick Lindsay, his brother-german, who was bred a lawyer, on hearing his brother's speech, and witnessing its effects, craved permission to plead his cause, which he did with so much address, that Lord Lindsay was acquitted. The old Baron, touched with a piece of service so seasonable and important, immediately exclaimed, "Well spoke, Pat; for your pyot tongue tak' ye the mains of Kirkforthar."\*

Besides the above, several families of note once made part of the parish aristocracy, but are now extinct, and scarce a vestige of their dwellings remains.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish has increased at a rapid rate during the last century. Within the last seventy years it has considerably more than doubled. As population and means of subsistence are intimately connected, this great local increase may be attributed, in a great measure, to the introduction of new branches of productive industry, which, by supplying regular employment, both retained the native population, and attracted influx from less favoured districts—emigration even of individuals being very rare.

Years,	1755,	1790,	1801,	1821,	1838,
Population,	2188.	2790.	3130.	4661.	5396.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres under cultivation amounts to about 8500, 350 of which are let in small lots varying from 1 to 10 acres, and on leases varying from one to seven years. The remainder is let in about forty-three farms of various sizes. There are about 400 acres in feus or small holdings in perpetuity, for an annual payment, varying from a merely nominal acknowledgment to L.16 per imperial acre. These feus are chiefly in the villages, and extend from a few poles to several acres each. There are about 800 acres under plantations, and a moss, the only one in the parish from which peats are dug for fuel, may contain 100 more. The quantity of land held by proprietors of bleachfields and of

\* Lindsay or Lindessay was originally an Anglo-Saxon earldom in the county of Lincoln; and one of the great divisions of that county bears the name of Lindsay to this day. The son of the Earl of Lindsay, after the fatal field of Hastings, accompanied Edward Atheling into Scotland to the court of Malcolm Canmore. The two principal branches or stems of this once potent family were represented—the one by the Earls of Crawford, the other by Lord Lindsay of the Byres, until the reign of Charles I. when the whole honours of the family were vested in the person of John tenth Lord Lindsay of the Byres, fourteenth Earl of Crawford, and first Earl of Lindsay. The family of Kirkforthar, bear the arms of Lord Lindsay of the Byres, Earl of Lindsay, and of Mure, Lord of Abercorn.



other public works, may extend to 100 acres ; the remainder, say 300 acres, may be regarded as taken up by roads, water-courses, &c.

In order to insure greater accuracy in this important branch of statistical inquiry, we have divided the parish into three sections, each of which will be found to differ from the other in various respects :—

1st. That part which lies on the north bank of the Leven, embracing the highest cultivated land in the parish. In this quarter the soil consists of loam, gravel, or clay, resting upon a porous subsoil of sand and gravel ; here drainage is for the most part easy, so that the land is in general dry and fertile.

2d. District lying between the Leven and the Orr. Soil, wet loam, sand and clay, upon a retentive subsoil, consisting of blue till, patches of sand, silt and stones.

3d. District between the Orr and the boundary of the parish to the south and east. Soil, a thin wet loam, clay and sand, part moorish. Subsoil retentive stiff clay or till.

In some parts of the second and third districts the subsoil is partially impregnated with iron immediately below the soil, forming a pan or crust nearly impervious to water. Where this is the case, the soil must be considered decidedly bad ; indeed, where it exists in any considerable degree, heath is the natural production. These soils also contain boulders in extraordinary quantities, principally trap, some of which are several tons in weight. In many fields of the same districts, and within fourteen inches of the surface, a sufficient quantity of these boulders can be obtained for filling drains at so small an interval as nine feet asunder.

*Drainage.*—The prevailing mode of draining is that of furrow-drains from two and a half to three feet deep, filled with stones turned out in working the soil. When the materials are found in this way properly broken, built and packed in the drain, this method will be found both economical and efficient, when the drains are on a hard bottom. Tiles are preferable where the bottom is soft or where stones are not plentiful, and where the water contains ochre or deposits a sediment.

*Products of the Soil.*—The system generally adopted is that of raising grain and rearing and feeding cattle of the Fifeshire breed.

Rotation of crops from four to seven years :

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.
Fallow or potatoes.	Wheat or barley.	Grass.	Oats.		
Do.	Wheat.	Pease, beans, tares, turnips.	Barley.	Grass.	Oats.
Do.	Do.	Barley.	Grass.	Oats.	
Do.	Oats.	Grass.	Do.	Do.	Oats.

The first year's grass is often cut for hay. It is then sometimes pastured for one or more years, according to the promise of grass or the wants of the farmer. Supposing the lands in the parish divided into ten equal parts, the proportions of the various kinds of crop may be estimated as under :

Fallow or green crop, 2. Wheat, 1. Barley, 1. Grass, 3. Oats, 3.

Pease, beans, or flax are but little cultivated. The above estimate is exclusive of the space allotted to roads, fences, water-courses, and pleasure grounds.

*Manures.*—Bone manure is used in dry land ; rape cake has been tried successfully in clay and wet lands. The principal extraneous stimulant applied is lime, from Forthar, Chapel, Pitlesie, or Inverteil lime-works. Besides the farm-yard manure, a considerable quantity is obtained from the neighbouring villages.

*Amount of Produce.*—Adhering to the sectional divisions already referred to, the following estimate is offered of the average produce per Scotch acre : First district, wheat,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  quarters ; barley,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  do. ; oats,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  do. Second district, wheat, 4 quarters ; barley,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  do. ; oats,  $5\frac{1}{2}$  do. Third district. In the western part of this district, little wheat is sown ; the same is the case with regard to barley. Oats may be estimated at  $5\frac{1}{2}$  quarters per acre.

*Leases.*—The usual endurance of leases is for nineteen years. Farms are let by private offers,—a mode which, while it obviates the injurious tendency of public competition, enables the landlord to exercise his judgment in the selection of the tenant, with a just regard to the interests of both. A fixed sum of money is now almost universally substituted for the antiquated, though perhaps more equitable, mode of rent in kind.

*Rent and Value of Land.*—In consequence of the increased demand for all sorts of agricultural produce on the breaking out of the French Revolution, the rentals of many estates were doubled. At the close of the war, however, the value of farms fell from 15 to 20 per cent. Since the practice of furrow-draining was introduced, wet-bottomed lands, such as we have described above, have risen considerably in value.

*Wages.*—Men-servants are hired by the year from Martinmas to Martinmas. Married men receive of wages L. 11 Sterling in money ;  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls oatmeal ; coals, carriage free ; and from one Scotch pint of milk to two imperial quarts daily. They are also allowed a free house, with eight falls of garden ground, besides



twenty-four falls for planting potatoes. Unmarried men receive L. 12 Sterling per annum, lodgings, potatoes for six or seven months, with meal and milk as above. Female servants get from L. 5 to L. 6, 10s. with board and washing.

*Manufactures.*—Local facilities for the establishment of all those branches of productive industry which require the aid of machinery, are peculiar and numerous. The most remote part of the parish is but an inconsiderable distance from the coast. It is traversed by excellent roads in all directions, rendering communication with the great manufacturing town of Dundee, through the shipping ports of Newburgh and Newport, on the one hand, and with Edinburgh, by Kirkaldy and Pettycur on the other, neither difficult nor expensive. The water power supplied by two considerable streams, the Leven and the Orr, is unlimited and inexhaustible. Coals are abundant and cheap, and excellent stone for building is found in all directions, and at a trifling depth below the surface; while seven populous villages furnish an abundance of hands for all those operations where manual labour is required. At the period of Dr Thomson's statistical return, there existed in the parish no machinery save what was used in corn and flax mills, of which there are at present in use of the former, 1, and of the latter, 4. Since that time a class of public works has sprung up, which have been greatly beneficial to the industrious classes. The following statement is made up from the proprietors' returns, which have been obligingly furnished.

*Paper-Mills.*—*Roth's Paper-Mill* was erected in 1806 by Mr William Keith, and worked as a two-vat mill. Some years after, it became the property of Mr David Lindsay, who enlarged it considerably, and latterly erected a paper machine. In 1836, it was purchased by Messrs R. Tullis and Co. Brown and gray wrapping-papers are the sorts now manufactured here, for which about 25cwt. of flax waste, coarse bagging, or ropes, are used daily. Employment is here afforded to about 20 men and 10 women.

*Auchmuty Paper-Mill* was erected by Robert Tullis and Co. as a four vat mill, and began working in May 1810. The vats are now all thrown aside; the paper being made by a Fourdrinier machine, such as is generally used. Above a ton of fine rags is consumed here daily in making cartridge, coloured, printing, and writing papers. There are upwards of 50 women employed in sorting and cutting the rags, who are paid at the rate of 10d. per

day of ten hours. About the same number of men are required to attend the machinery, and manage the different processes, or engaged as wrights, carters, labourers, &c. The wages of these latter vary from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 6d. per day. The hands at the Rothes Mill are remunerated at the same rate. The annual amount of excise duty paid by the two mills is about L. 6500 Sterling, and, as the duty is  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. on each pound of paper, this gives a total of 1,040,000 lbs., or 465 tons of paper manufactured annually.

*Balbirnie Paper-Mill* was erected in the year 1816, by the late Mr Alexander Grieve, and was continued with two vats and one engine, until 1834, when J. Grieve and Co. introduced a machine and four engines. The papers made here are principally for the London market, and consist chiefly of two kinds, the one very strong, such as is principally used by grocers; and the other very thin and transparent, for the use of drapers and silk-mercers. The raw materials employed are, damaged yarn, flax waste, bagging and ropes, of which, when making light papers, 24 cwt., and when making heavy papers, 37 cwt. are consumed daily. The quantity of paper manufactured yearly averages 44,000 reams, weighing about 560,000 lbs., or 250 tons, and contributing to the public revenue the sum of L. 3500 per annum. The number of hands employed on the works are 30, of whom 16 are men, and 14 women; the former earn from 1s. 6d. to 2s. 8d., and the latter from 10d. to 1s. 1d. per day.

*Woollen Manufactory—Balbirnie Bridge Factory*, established by Mr Drysdale, 1835. The stuffs manufactured here are plaidings, blankets, and shawls. The wool employed is chiefly of British growth. The carding and spinning processes are carried on, on the premises, by means of two roving-machines and two double sets of jennies of 144 and 168 spindles respectively. There are 10 power-looms and 4 hand-looms employed, producing 3, 7, 8, 9, and 10 qrs. widths. The average daily consumption of raw material is 8 stones of 24 lbs. each. The hands employed are 27, of whom 10 are men, 11 boys, and the remainder women and girls. The men earn from 10s. to 16s. per week, and the others from 3s. 6d. to 6s. The power-loom weavers, 6 boys and 4 girls, earn as much as 1s. each per day of twelve hours. The articles manufactured are principally for the Glasgow market. The wholesale prices are, of blankets, from 7s. to 17s. each, and of plaidings, from 10d. to 1s. 3d. per yard.



*Linen Manufactory.*—Previous to the year 1810, the brown linen manufactory of this parish was limited to some 50 or 60 operatives, who sold their Silesias and window-blind Hollands to the merchants at Auchtermuchty and Kettle, from whom the yarns were generally purchased. The yarns chiefly used were hand-spun, the produce of Scotland and Ireland, with some German yarns imported from Hamburgh; but in a few years this branch of the linen trade very much declined, and was at last almost entirely relinquished. About the year 1804, the manufacture of Dowlas, sheetings, and various kinds of towellings, was introduced from bleached, mill, and spun flax, and tow yarns, and this branch of the trade has continued to increase, till it now employs from 800 to 900 individuals, including winders, warpers, weavers, and lappers. The hands thus employed do not all belong to Markinch. The work is given out to be performed at their own homes, and many of them reside in the adjoining parishes. During the summer months, nearly a third part of the weavers go to out-door work, and return to the loom when winter sets in. Steady workmen, at the present rates, will earn at Dowlas weaving about 7s.; at sheetings, 8s.; and at towellings, 9s. per-week. The winders are chiefly old and infirm persons, or married females who have time to spare from their domestic duties; they earn from 1s. to 4s.; warpers and lappers, 10s. per week. The whole of this branch is in the hands of Mr Robert Inglis.

*Flax Spinning-Mill.*—Balgonie mills, the property of Messrs Baxter and Stewart, for spinning flax and tow. The works command the entire use of the Léven, and the machinery is driven by two water-wheels of fifty-five horse-power. 1. For flax spinning, dry or long staple, there are twenty frames, containing 1000 spindles, with a full system of screw-gill preparation to correspond. The size of the yarn spun is from  $1\frac{1}{2}$  to 3 pounds per spindle, or, in other words, from 30 to 16 lea yarn. 2. For flax spinning, wet or broken staple, there are eighteen frames, containing 1170 spindles, with full system of circular-gill preparation for the same. The size of the yarn spun is from 12 ounces to half a pound per spindle, or from 30 to 60 lea yarn. 3. For tow spinning, there are three systems of spinning, each with suitable preparation, including twelve 6 feet carding engines, viz. five frames, 296 spindles, for spinning yarn from 2 to 3 pounds per spindle,

or 24 to 16 lea; ten frames, 400 spindles, for spinning yarn from  $3\frac{1}{2}$  to 6 pounds per spindle, 14 to 8 lea; four frames, 160 spindles, for spinning yarn from 10 pounds to 24 pounds per spindle, 5 to 2 lea. The principal buildings of which the mills are composed form three sides of a rectangle, 160 feet by 140. Two of the sides are occupied by machinery, and the third is occupied by three spacious warehouses, with heckling rooms above. There is a large store warehouse detached, capable of holding 200 tons of flax, as well as large conveniences in the way of stabling, smithy, and gas-work. There are about 265 individuals employed at the mills, of whom about 95 are full grown men, 120 women, and 46 of both sexes under seventeen years of age. The wages paid each fortnight are about L.200, averaging say 12s. per week for each man, and 5s. per week for each woman and for the younger hands. The quantity of flax manufactured in the year 1838 was 475 tons, of which 340 tons was Baltic flax, 65 tons Archangel, and the remaining 70 tons Dutch, French, and Irish. Besides the tows from these flaxes, about 100 tons of imported tow were used. The total cost of the whole material was above L.25,000.

The yarns spun are, with the exception of the heavier tow yarns, either sold in the district adjoining, or exported to France. The heavier tow yarns are manufactured by the proprietors into canvas, sacking, &c. chiefly for the London market. This branch of the business is carried on in Dundee, and at present employs from 60 to 100 looms; but arrangements are at present making for transferring it to Balgonie; and when this is effected, it will cause an addition to the number of persons already employed of about 100 men, and 50 women and children.

The village of Miltown, adjoining the mills, has, since the enlargement and extension of the works in 1836-37, nearly doubled its population. The present population is 580. The houses are, in general, neat, substantial, and fully beyond the average of the country as to comfort. The rent of a house of two rooms, with a few falls of garden ground and a pig-stye, is from L.2 to L.2, 10s. per annum.

*Haugh Spinning-Mill* was erected in the year 1794, for the purpose of spinning chiefly canvas yarns from flax and tow, which was carried on by various companies up to 1832, when the present proprietor sold all the old machinery, and introduced a complete set of new, for spinning fine yarns adapted for home made linens. Half the machinery works upon the long staple, and half upon



the short staple principle. An addition was made to the work in 1835, and the mill now contains upwards of 2000 spindles, capable of turning off about 600 spindles of yarns per day. The machinery is propelled by two water-wheels of about 40 horse-power. The mill consumes from 25 to 30 tons of flax per month, consisting chiefly of the finer qualities imported from Holland, Belgium, and France, and also from Archangel, Riga, and St Petersburg. The yarns are for the most part wove in the county of Fife, into almost all descriptions of family linens.

*Haugh Bleachfield*.—In 1836, there was added to the mills a bleachfield, capable of bleaching about two tons of linen yarn daily. The work-people employed at the mill and bleachfield are in number 183, of whom two-thirds are females from fourteen years of age and upwards, earning from 4s. 6d. to 7s. 6d. per week. The men earn from 9s. to L.1 weekly. Most of the hands are accommodated with dwelling-houses on the premises. Upwards of twenty families are thus accommodated, besides a good many boarders; the whole may be estimated at an average of 280 to 320 souls. Their moral and religious character is generally good, and their attendance at church very respectable, both in point of numbers and of outward deportment.

*Lochty Bleachfield*, on the water of Lochty, in the vicinity of the new and thriving village of Thornton, is the property of David Landale, Esq. Kirkaldy. About two tons and a-half of linen yarn are bleached at this field per day, the greater part of which is manufactured into cloth in the county; but part is exported to France, and some sent to Ireland. At this field the residuum of the chlorine stills is converted by the usual process into carbonate of soda, and mixed with potash, as a detergent for the yarns. From 80 to 100 hands, mostly women, are employed at this bleachfield. The women are paid 5s. 6d., and the men 10s. to 12s. per week.

*Balgonie Bleachfield*, the property of Messrs William Russell and Co. was established in 1824, for bleaching linen yarns. About 480 tons of flax and tow yarns are bleached here annually. The number of hands employed is 70, who are paid at the same rate as at the other bleachfields. The machinery is worked by water-power supplied by the Leven, on the banks of which the works are situated.

*Rothies Bleachfield*, the property of Mr D. Donaldson, was erected in 1800. The quantity of yarn bleached on an average

is as follows: From December to March, inclusive, 292 tons; from April to November, inclusive, 390 tons. The number of hands employed is—of men, 30; women and girls, 80. The men earn from 10s. to 11s. per week; women and girls, 3s. 6d., 4s. 6d., 5s. 6d., according to age and capability.

Besides the above public works, there is a very extensive grain distillery at Cameron Bridge; and there has lately been established at Thornton a vitriol manufactory, for supplying with that article the surrounding districts, which, previous to this erection, were subjected to the expense of carriage from Glasgow. The works at Thornton are a branch of a Glasgow firm extensively engaged in the vitriol manufacture.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—According to an entry in the “Great Register Book” of the Priory of St Andrews, the church of Markinch was given to the Culdees by Malduinus, the son of Gillander, seventh Bishop of that See, who flourished in the early part of the tenth century. “Malduinus Episcopus St Andreæ dedit eis ecclesiam de Markinch cum totâ terra.” It seems to be a fact sufficiently well authenticated, both by records and histories of the period, that the first Bishops were themselves Culdees; and elected from among the general body of pastors by a majority of votes. But as the influence of these holy men became gradually undermined by the emissaries of Rome, and the insidious abettors of Papal domination, they were stript, one by one, of their privileges and possessions, and finally ceased to exist as a distinct and influential body in the church. At what time they ceased to hold possession of the cure and lands of Markinch, we have no means of ascertaining very precisely; but, by a deed of Eugenius, son of Hugo, a second son of Gillemichael M'Duff, fourth Earl of Fife, we find it was mortified to the Priory of St Andrews, towards the close of the twelfth century. This deed was confirmed by a charter of King William. From this period the patronage of the parish continued vested in the Priory of St Andrews, till, on the suppression of religious houses at the Reformation, it was resumed by the Crown. The names of the earliest incumbents after the downfall of Popery are not preserved,—the session records reaching no farther back than the month of July 1626, at which period they began to be kept with an exactness and detail long since discontinued, exhibiting an interesting picture of the manners and opinions of the time, and shewing with what vigilance and vigour the discipline of



the church was carried into effect, and its government maintained throughout the most trying and stormy periods of its history.

From these records it appears, that collections for the poor were regularly made on Sundays, and on occasions of baptisms and marriages. The sums thus collected were statedly distributed to the regular poor on the roll, while incidental cases of want or of more urgent distress were liberally relieved on the application of the necessitous. The names of the principal proprietors in the parish appear as the collectors and the distributors of the poor's funds, as patrolling in turn the streets of the village during the hours of Divine service, delating offences against social order and good morals, and enforcing the salutary discipline of the church\* against graver delinquencies. Among other respectable members of the kirk-session up to the Reformation, we find the names of Sir David Achmuttie of that Ilk, and of the Lairds of Balbirnie, Bandon, Bruntoun, Coul, Carristoun, and Kirkforthar,—names related to the first families in the kingdom, and who disdained not to exert the influence which their rank and wealth conferred in promoting the interests of religion and morality. In addition to the usual immoralities cognizable by the session, and which were then punished by fine and by rebuke in the face of the congregation, we find not a few delated for pursuing their ordinary avocations on the Sabbath, for absenting themselves from church and from the administration of ordinances, for slandering neighbours, for profane swearing, for drunkenness, and frequenting houses of public entertainment during the hours of Divine service. In 1643, Mr Frederick Carmichael is admitted minister of the parish, the “ministrie of the Presbyterie” having met at the kirk of Markinch for that effect. His predecessor would seem to have been deposed as “aneemie to ye Covenant,” notwithstanding the testimony borne in face of the kirk-session by the Laird of Bruntoun in his behalf, that “he was als honest a minister, als faithful a minister, and als conscientious a minister as any minister in Fyffe.” It appears, however, that the great majority of the elders and people were heartily engaged on the side of the common cause. Numbers of the parishioners flocked to the national standard, with arms in their hands, while contributions in money were not wanting to attest the gene-

\* Besides the objects for which the liberality of the congregation was appealed to, as stated in the text, it appears from the records that collections were occasionally made for suffering churches abroad; and at home, for building bridges, and for similar public improvements locally distant, and which nothing but enlarged views of national utility could have prompted at a time when money was so sparingly held, and the means of acquiring it so few and unproductive in this inland parish.

ral zeal for the cause of the kirk and the Covenant. Several instances occur in which "the session thought it meit yt the voluntarie contribution should be carried to ye armie by ye minister, and to be delyvered ther." That the incumbent during these years was a zealous promoter of the popular cause is manifest from the above extract, if, indeed, he was not one of the council of ministers appointed to attend the General in the field; for not only do the weekly entries show that his pulpit was at frequent intervals supplied by one of his brethren of the Presbytery, but we also find such intimations as the following:—"The qlk day our awin minister taught (Ps. xxxiv. 19,) being returned for ane space from the armie," and again, "13th July 1645, Our awin minister returned from England." We refer to one other entry to show that the victims of war were not forgotten by such of their brethren as tarried at home; for under the date of August 24th, 1645, we find it noted, that a messenger was dispatched by the session "to Montrose, his ligure, to try if any prisoneris of this parochie be thaire." Nor were demonstrations of piety, of which the times furnished such signal examples, wanting to second the efforts of a generous patriotism. The adverse vicissitudes of those troublous times are duly marked by days of public humiliation and fasting, for which the reasons are recorded at length, while the successes of the national leaders are as duly celebrated by public acts of thanksgiving. Days of thanksgiving were ordained "for ye victorie obtained be our armie at York against Prince Rupert his armie,"—for "the victorie our armie obtained at Newcastle,"—for "the happie victorie obtained be Leivtenant Generall David Lesslie, against James Graham, sometyme Earle of Montros, and his rebellis, at Philip Haugh, neir Jedburgh, upon ye 13th of September 1645." In this manner the principal events in this most eventful period of Scottish history are noticed up to the Restoration. Such was the political education of our fathers. Their guides and instructors were their ministers and elders, the former, for the most part, men of large minds, as well as of an ardent piety; deeply versed in the principles of civil not less than of ecclesiastical polity; while the latter, were, by their birth, education, and moral worth, entitled to the respect and esteem of those over whom they were called to rule, of whom moreover, they were the local and legitimate protectors. The principles and the proceedings of those days have been sometimes wittily ridiculed, and sometimes gravely denounced as hostile to monarchy, and subversive of liberty of con-



science; nor have they wanted able vindicators. But discussion were here out of place. Suffice it to remark, that so fixed and firm was the attachment of our forefathers to the revered institution of monarchy in the State, and presbyterial order in the Church, that neither the example, nor the caresses, nor the menaces of the "English sectaries" availed to repress, much less to vanquish them.

A system grounded on principles so holy, and aiming at results so salutary,—a system so deeply rooted in the habits and affections of a whole people,—none but the most licentious monarch, and the most unprincipled administration that ever swayed the destinies of the British empire, would have wished, or ventured to assail. After the re-establishment of Episcopacy the altered state of matters is lamentably manifest. The meetings of session are no longer stated and regular,—no fasts are ordained but those which precede the communion—no days of thanksgiving set apart, but the 29th of May "for his Majestie's happie returne." Yet the Sabbath-day ministrations never seem to have suffered any serious interruption during the long and troubled night of Episcopal domination; nor is the most distant allusion made in the Minutes of Session to any change of form, under the new order of things, unless the following may be so interpreted: "30th November 1662, reading befor and after sermones did begin again." In the course of the succeeding year, the names of those elders who were landed proprietors are no longer found, as present at, or concurring in, the deliberations of the session; they devolved on meaner men those duties which the arbitrary temper of the times rendered it dangerous for them any longer to discharge.\* The acts of their successors are no longer bowed to with deference and submission; threats are held out of making "applicatiōe to my Lord St Andrews for purchasing of a warrand" in "mitigatiōe" of the required "satisfactiōe." "My Lord St Andrews, through his commissary, enjoins the "mitigatiōe" prayed. But our limits do not permit to enter more minutely into details. If similar instances of arbitrary interference served to weaken the bonds of discipline, and to lessen the respect due to the immediate pastors and rulers of the church, they served to prepare the minds of all good men and true patriots for welcoming the glorious dawn of civil and religious liberty ushered in by the Revolution of 1688.

After the Revolution-settlement, when civil and religious liberty

\* The fines imposed on parishioners of Markinch for nonconformity at this period amounted to L. 5000. See Wodrow's History, author's preface.

were placed on a secure basis, the church, if not a faultless, at least exhibited a fair and well-proportioned institution, as efficient an instrument for publishing the Gospel, and instructing the people, divested of religious pageantry and superfluous appendages as latter ages have witnessed. From that happier period, the parish seems to have enjoyed a succession of not only sound, but able ministers—all of them faithful, and some of them eminently successful in their day. The patronage, which is vested in the Crown, was exercised judiciously, chiefly by means of the Earls of Leven, who till lately held the rank of principal heritor, and long diffused a salutary influence over the parish. No unpopular settlement, I believe, ever took place, and those who advocate the advantage of such management, will no doubt be anxious to ascertain the result.

Now, though every minister in his day has had sufficient reason to deplore the limited success of his ministry, it is due to truth to make the statement I now do, that, after twenty years connection with the parish, I have found among its ancient families, as compared with new-comers, transplanted from fields placed under a different system of spiritual husbandry, an order, decency, and moral bearing, obviously superior, even where much might be lacking as to the full standard of wished-for piety. This general statement admits many exceptions on the one side and on the other; but enough remains to warrant the assertion, that a sound Christian agency is the best calculated to induce moral order, and did, in fact, in this place, largely prove its adequacy to that effect.

As to literary distinction, few of the pastors referred to had leisure, or inclination, it is presumed, to enter the lists with competitors for fame. One or two of them were deemed fit to be transferred to St Andrews, to occupy in that University the place of principal. Another, who furnished the former Statistical report, published an agricultural survey of the county, about the time of his translation to a city charge; of the rest, nothing remains beyond a few sermons, mostly of an occasional and ephemeral sort. Their works, however, we doubt not, will bear a last-day review without shame, as they are without pretension.

Owing to the rapid increase of population, the parish field soon became unmanageable for a single labourer, especially as secular business increases on the hands of the Established clergy in proportion to the census. Household ministrations necessarily became rare, and the effects of one visit had vanished before another could



be given to confirm the impression. Church accommodation, too, was unrighteously straitened; for a place of worship built for a population of 2000 or 3000, left many among 5000 or 6000 unprovided for. Neither had there been any Dissenting place of worship erected here, previous to 1834, owing, no doubt, to the popular settlements that had so long prevailed. In that year, a chapel in connection with the United Secession body, and seated for 380, was opened, though so placed as to afford little aid for unaccommodated parishioners in the remote villages; for it was put down in close neighbourhood to the parish church, while several considerable villages, at from two to four miles distance, were overlooked.

It was then, however, the Church Extension scheme came into action, and here it was speedily and efficiently applied, first at Thornton, a village four miles off, with more than 500 inhabitants; and next at Milton of Balgonie, having nearly 600 indwellers, besides a populous district lying beyond it. The church at Thornton is seated for upwards of 400, and that at Milton for 650; while a new erection at Methill, on the border of Weymss parish, has supplied accommodation for a large village of 400 inhabitants, situated on the coast, and more than six miles distant from the church at Markinch. In the latter village, Inverleven, a small Dissenting chapel had long existed, and nearly one-half the inhabitants, who adhered to the Established Church, were obliged to cross the Leven to attend public worship at the church of Scoonie, the minister of which, indeed, had taken the virtual charge of them for many years.

The church at Thornton was built by general subscription, that of Milton solely by the heritors and people of the district to be benefited by the erection;\* and it is due to the respectable heritors of the parish to record their liberality on that occasion, in grateful terms. Both churches have now ordained pastors; and seats being furnished at a low rate, Sabbath privileges are accessible to all. But after these erections have so greatly relieved the pressure on the parish minister, a body of about 3500 remain, among which to exert his still inadequate pastoral superintendence, though he has done what he could to remedy the deficiency, by calling a qualified assistant to aid him in the work. It were much to be desired that his unendowed fellow-labourers in the new parishes were on an equal footing as to stipendiary compensation.†

\* In both is included the aid given in such cases by the Church Extension Committee in Edinburgh.

† The Rev. Mr Murray, the first minister of Milton, was after six months, trans-

The present stipend, augmented in 1822, is 18 chalders, half barley, half meal, paid at the rates of the county fiars, the fluctuation of which is very considerable, ranging betwixt the highest and the lowest in the proportion of one to five-eighths, within the period of the writer's incumbency. The glebe contains nearly 9 acres, which may be valued at L.32 per annum. The manse is of very ancient construction, by much the oldest in the presbytery. It has undergone repairs and alterations so numerous, as greatly to affect its apparent identity. The site has been long regarded by incumbents as very insalubrious, and more has been expended to obviate dilapidation, than would have built a wholesome and commodious dwelling. The church is in excellent repair.

According to a census taken in 1836, the whole population of Markinch amounted to 5328, or 1189 families. Of these, 159 families are Dissenters from the Established Church; 51 families are of a mixed composition; 30 of them having one Dissenting member; and 14 having two in each; the rest three or more; 25 of the first class (159) reside in the far off village of Inverleven. Making these deductions, there remain within the bounds of the civil parish about 1079 families, exclusive of those of a mixed profession, in connection with the Established Church, or owning no other connection. Since last census, the population has increased, but without materially affecting the above proportions. No marvel that the class of non-attenders at any place of worship should have increased, when church accommodation, till recently, was so disproportionate, and more especially, that, to supply the public works, strangers, not always of settled principles, or church going habits, are often attracted to the parish.

*Education.*—This has always been a prominent object in our parochial system. No other country has ever exhibited so close an alliance betwixt religion and education, or shewn a parish church and parish school in such harmonious and undivided neighbourhood. Of this conjunction, the beneficial effects have been incalculably great, both as to intellectual improvement and intelligent piety. The earliest records of the kirk-session evince the attention paid to means of education; for, besides the parochial school, we find order taken to have the remoter localities supplied. Thus, in 1702, the following entry was made: "The minister having acquainted the session, that he had found, on his going throw

lated to the parish of Dunbog, and was succeeded by the Rev. Mr M'Ewan, the present incumbent. The first minister of Thornton, the Rev. Mr Adamson, is still there. In both churches the seats are well let and occupied.



that part of the parish, that the people of Coltoun stand in great need of an English school for teaching their children,—the session, taking the case to their consideration, not only what is represented, but further, that there is a dangerous water betwixt this and Coltoun; and that many poor things of that toun must be lost entirely as to instruction, if there be not a school there, and that parents who have substance of the world, and are obliged to send their children abroad out of the paroch, will be hereby encouraged to keep them at home, and that the doing of this is an necessary and Christian duty, and for the special benefit of that corner of the paroch, and not in the least lyable to any reasonable exception, did unanimously agree that there be a school in Coltoun, and offered to the minister their ready concurrence with his project to that effect.”\*

Equal interest, however, was not shown by the people at all times in availing themselves of school-training, for on the “ 20 Martii 1643,” this minute occurs : “ The said day, George Robertson did give over his office of ye school and ye kirk, and ye session, and yat because his deutie was small and ewil payed,” &c. Probably, George Robertson might have set down the people’s indifference to his own remissness or want of skill. In the present day, at least, the desire for good education pervades all classes in the parish, nor are the means for accomplishing it sparingly enjoyed,—nine schools, besides the parish one, being in active operation. Of these nine, two only, on the Balgonie estate, have any shadow of endowment; the one at Balgonie Square, enjoying an annual allowance of L. 10, with dwelling-house annexed, the other, at Thornton, having L. 5 simply. These sums had been allowed by the former proprietor, and are continued by the present, with a becoming liberality. Another school, at Balbirnie coal-hill, merely provides the teacher with a house. Of the rest, none have any other means of support for the teacher, save school-fees,—a very precarious and inadequate source of remuneration for a class of men whose meritorious labours are of so much importance to the community. A female school in the village derives pecuniary aid from the private subscription of a few ladies connected with the place, chiefly of the Balgonie, Balbirnie, and Barnslee families.

The parish school may be held up as a model, so admirably is it conducted by Mr Duncan Stewart. Previous to his appointment six years ago, little could have been said in favour of its management; but it is now efficient in the highest degree, and, in point

\* This school has continued to the present time.

of system, will bear a comparison with seminaries of the first class. After this, it need not be said that it is well attended. Indeed, want of room is the chief impediment it labours under, and though the heritors have already done much in the way of affording accommodation, more is needed for the due working of the important institution. When Dr Thomson gave his Statistical Report, the salary of the schoolmaster was L. 10, the dwelling-house also being old and incommodious. Mr Stewart's salary is L. 34, 4s. 4½d.; school-fees, L. 70; other emoluments, L. 17, 10s.; total income per annum, L. 121, 14s. 4½d. The dwelling-house is of late erection, and affords accommodation considerably beyond the statutory amount, though by no means beyond the station of the occupants.

Besides week-day means of instruction, the Sabbath school system is diligently worked under the efficient direction of the assistant minister, aided by a number of gratuitous teachers, who devote a portion of the Sabbath to this excellent purpose. Oral instruction is aided by the gratuitous use of a small, but gradually increasing collection of appropriate books, which convey to many houses, ill-provided with such furniture, means of information and materials for thought, on subjects of momentous importance. The Dissenting chapel has also its collection of books in useful circulation.

*Benefit Societies.*—There are several Associations that belong to this department, the strength and resources of which are shewn in the subjoined table:

Name.	No. of Members.	State of Funds.	Entry.	Quart.	Payt.
Friendly Society,	224	- L. 1000 0 0	L 0 2 6	L. 0	1 6
Brotherly do.	107	- 300 0 0	...	...	...
Apron do.	160	- 400 0 0	...	...	...
Equitable do.	180	never exceeds 30 0 0	weekly payment,	0	1 0

The last is of recent origin, and for the time, the most popular, as requiring a moderate payment of 1s. weekly, till the collective sum amounts to L. 30; each in his turn, which is determined by lot, is put in possession of that sum, continuing the weekly contribution, nevertheless, till his payments shall have replaced the amount drawn, with interest. Thus, each has his contributions realized to him, and a mutual accommodation results to the whole.

The object of the other three Societies is to make provision for widows and superannuated members, and to help when disabled by sickness or incidental casualty. The widow's allowance from the Friendly Society is L. 1, 4s. per annum; sick members receive for a



time 4s., and, if permanent aid is required, 2s. per week. Some of the others allow less.

There is, however, less alacrity now than in time past among young men to enrol themselves in these Societies, and as their success and stability depend on new accessions to supply the vacancies made by death, there is reason to apprehend a less permanent existence to some of them than their benevolent projectors contemplated.

There has not been shewn any strong disposition to make use of savings banks, nor has any branch of those institutions been here established, though, doubtless, an investment in them would possess many advantages in the way of encouraging economy and counteracting improvidence. A branch of the Commercial Bank, Edinburgh, has been recently introduced, which will afford new facilities to the business part of the community.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—Though this class must have increased with an increasing population, yet it has done so by no means in the same ratio. In 1621, the ordinary poor were 21; in 1645, 23; the intermediate years exhibiting little fluctuation. At present, and for the last twenty years, the ordinary poor average 50 on the roll for stated supply. In few cases, is full maintenance afforded, the weekly pension being chiefly given to persons disabled by sickness or age from industrial employments, and wanting relations in a condition to relieve them fully, though, with a little assistance, well disposed to contribute to the utmost of their power. The rate of allowance varies with the circumstances of the individual's case, there being as many under 1s. 6d. per week, as there are above that moderate sum. A heavy charge, however, occasionally occurs by having whole families devolved on parish support, either by the death of parents, or by their desertion. Cases in the latter predicament have, of late, become more frequent, and will necessarily multiply in proportion as moral principle is undermined, by the insidious fallacies of opinion, which of late have been industriously propagated on the questions of property and the marriage contract.

Besides the ordinary poor, occasional relief is administered, to a considerable extent, to persons not claiming regular supply, though incidentally requiring assistance. It is always an object to keep this class distinct from the others, as far as the principle of public charity will allow. In general, there is no indisposition to receive eleemosynary aid, though far less among recent settlers, than the ancient residents. When cases of lunacy occur among the working classes, the parish, for the most part, is called on to defray the

expense of their admission into a public asylum. At present, there is one individual so maintained at Perth. In general, recovery is by no means hopeless, when the case is not too long neglected.

To meet these charges, the permanent funds of the parish are very inadequate. These funds comprise church door-collections, dues on marriages and mortcloths, and interest on money in bank deposit. The first named class of revenue is variable, and it is to be regretted that the younger portion of church-goers are less exemplary in the Sabbath offering than their fathers. Injurious opinions, indeed, are by some inculcated, to the effect that such contributions, going only to exonerate the proprietors of the soil, who are legally bound to support the poor, form an act of gratuitous generosity on the part of the unlanded community, as if charity were the business of a class, and not the general concern of a virtuous community.

Other causes operating unfavourably on church-door collections might be mentioned, did the nature of this report allow more than general views. It must, moreover, be taken into the account in stating an average, that the *quoad sacra* parishes, having their own collections, must cause a diminution at the parish church. By the terms of their constitution, they are allowed to apply their collections for their own objects, provided they collect twice annually for the parish funds. It is a remarkable fact, that, in one of those new erections, that at Thornton, not a single pauper has claimed to be relieved. Since these disjunctions took place, the average collection at the parish church is under L.1. Thrice annually, (at two sacramental occasions, and first Sabbath of the year,) extraordinary collections are made, \* the proceeds of which are distributed in addition to the ordinary supplies, and chiefly to persons not on the stated roll. Collections for objects not eleemosynary are also occasionally made, averaging from L.30 to L.40 per annum. These include the General Assembly's Schemes, books for Sabbath school library, &c.

The return for mortcloths has of late years greatly declined, the right of the kirk-session to exact a fee being occasionally disputed, and not by Dissenters alone, though it was first challenged on that side. The payment is undoubtedly legal, but can rarely be enforced without violating the decencies due to interment of the dead.

There is a deposit fund of L.400 belonging to the parish, the interest of which only is at the disposal of the kirk-session. A Female Society for aged women in destitute circumstances lays out about

\* These are always liberal.



L.50 annually, and is so conducted as to prove an excellent auxiliary to the kirk-session. The principal ladies connected with the parish patronize it.

It must not be omitted, that a great deal of private charity is unobtrusively distributed by the families of the principal heritors, whether resident or otherwise. It is pleasant also to state, that among the humbler classes, many instances occur of an habitual, though little noticed readiness to communicate of their little to a neighbour having less. The finest charities of life are thus produced.

The two great coal proprietors, Mr Balfour of Whittingham and Balgonie, and Mr Balfour of Balbirnie, make liberal donations of coals each winter. The former not being resident, places his coal bounty at the disposal of the kirk-session, and never reduces the list of expectants made up by the elders. The Barnslee family also do much in the way of private distribution to the deserving poor. In the eastern part of the parish, the family of Balfour has been long distinguished in this respect.

With all these accessories, the parish funds present a large deficit, which the heritors have hitherto met by voluntary assessment. This is gradually becoming more onerous, and the kirk-session experience augmenting difficulties in their management. Indeed, in so far as relieving the poor ceases to be regarded as a branch of charity, and passes into the predicament of an absolute legal claim, it becomes the more difficult for a kirk-session to administer beneficially. Their position is pressed on the one side by applicants, on the other by heritors, who have to provide for deficiencies. In this conflict, their moral influence is exposed to damage, and as it perishes, their usefulness suffers in proportion. Yet the substitution of a machinery divested of all church associations, and worked by legal power only, destroys one of the healthiest agencies ever introduced into the parochial economy.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

On minor branches of parish statistics, it is not necessary to dilate. It may be mentioned that the public health is under the care of three active and well-qualified medical practitioners; whereas, long after Dr Thomson wrote his Report, not one was resident in the parish. These three reside in the village of Markinch. There is nothing that requires special notice in the department of disease; here, as in other parts of the island, cases of pulmonary consumption forming the largest class. The mortality of the last forty years shows an average of 69, the

greatest amount (in 1834) being 130; the lowest (in 1802) 53. Several instances of a longevity exceeding ninety years have occurred during the last twenty years; and one, a few months ago, who had gone beyond ninety-six. The ardour of politics had carried him, two years before, to a polling-place six miles from his habitation.

As to the general morals of the community, it were indelicate to go into specialities of detail. Crime, as the term is usually understood, is exceedingly unfrequent. Petty breaches of the peace occasionally occur, but will become rare, as the cause of temperance gains ground,—and happily it does gain on the opposite vice,—solicited as that vice is by a too promiscuous system of licensing public-houses, the number of which is still excessive, and ought to be reduced. The class of immorality that most falls under the cognizance of the kirk-session has sensibly diminished; and, upon the whole, the community has an improved moral aspect. This is much aided by the excellent regulations maintained at the leading public works, whose proprietors insist on moral conduct as an indispensable condition of being retained in their employment. Several of them, too, have provided libraries for the use of their work people, which operates in many ways in producing a beneficial result. And, in proportion as the popular mind is well-informed, it will cease to lend a facile ear to the propagators of opinions subversive of virtuous order and religious obligation. The parochial system, not less than other institutions of the land, has of late years been exposed to unsparing aggression, and nothing less than its ruin will satisfy assailants. We wish its downfall averted, in the persuasion that it is a righteous instrument for promoting an host of objects, each of which, we cannot help thinking, is worth more than the most exaggerated cost of the *whole*!

#### ADDENDUM.

*List of Heritors.*—\* James Balfour of Balgonie; John Balfour of Balbirnie; Drinkwater Bethune of Balfour; \* J. E. Wemyss of Wemyss Castle; \* Earl of Rothes; Mrs Col. Paston of Barnslee; \* United College of St Andrews; G. J. Lindsay of Kirkcorthar; John Landale of Man; \* J. Johnston of Little Lun; John Lawson of Carieston; George Greig of Little Balcurvie; \* Wardlaw Ramsay of Balcurvie; \* C. M. Christie of Durie; J. Simpson

\* Those marked with an asterisk \* are non-resident.



of Durie Vale; \* D. Millie of Cameron Bridge; A. Mitchel of Coul; J. Balfour of Ashgrove; \* G. Ballingall of Carieston Easter.

June 1840.

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## PARISH OF CARNOCK.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. WILLIAM GILSTON, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name*—IN the former Account of the parish, it is stated, that the words *cair* or *cairn*, and *knock*, (of which Carnock is supposed to be a compound,) signify “a village, or collection of houses adjoining to a small hill.” Another etymology has been given, which makes the name signify “a cairn, or barrows on a hill,” and this, probably, is the true derivation.

*Extent and Boundaries*.—This parish lies very compact, being about 3 miles from east to west, and about the same from north to south, though narrowing considerably in the latter direction. Its whole extent is about 9 square miles, or 2260 square acres. It is bounded on the extreme west by the parish of Culross, in the county of Perth; on the north-west, by the parish of Saline; on the north-east and east, by that of Dunfermline; and on the south and south-west, by that of Torryburn.

*Topographical Appearances*.—The surface is pleasingly undulating and varied; and being well wooded, presents, from several points of view, landscapes of considerable beauty and richness. There is no eminence deserving of the name of a mountain; but the Camp’s Bank and Carneil Hill, which form a continuous range of rising ground, are of considerable elevation, and command extensive views of the Frith of Forth and the adjacent country, from Stirling on the west, to Edinburgh on the east. Luscar Knolls, or Knows, also the Clune of Newbigging, and part of the Clune farm, which lie further north, and are somewhat more elevated, command rich and varied prospects; and from most of them are seen in the distance, the Ochils, Benlomond,

and other western mountains, together with the Pentland hills, and the rising grounds to the east.

*Hydrography.*—There are but few streams in the parish, and all of them unimportant, except as watering the localities through which they flow. They run from east to west, and after joining other rivulets, fall into the Frith of Forth, beyond the bounds of the parish. From external appearances, there seem to be a few mineral springs, chiefly of the chalybeate kind; but they are little attended to. Of other springs, there are several, which are all perennial, and which furnish an abundant supply of excellent water for the use of the inhabitants. Under this head, also, should perhaps be mentioned the Ink Craig, in the neighbourhood of the village of Carnock, which is so called from its producing a liquid resembling ink. “A chemical analysis,” says the former Account of the parish, “was made of this liquid by the ingenious Dr Black, when it was found to contain a mixture of coal, flinty earth, and clay.” Its appearance to the eye is simply that of water oozing through a black substance resembling coal, with which it has become impregnated. The liquid forms a very tolerable ink, and might, for ordinary purposes, be used as such.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The rocks of this parish are chiefly sandstone, limestone, and different varieties of trap. The strata dip in all directions; but in the north side of the parish, the dip is generally to the north-west, north, or north-east; while in the south, the dip is to the south and south-west. Sandstone is the most extensively diffused of all the rocks, being met with in almost every part of the parish; and in one part, where it presents a continuous bed of many acres extent, and of great thickness, lying so near the surface as to be entirely exposed, or only partially covered with a thin coating of moss and heath. In some places, the freestone beds seem to have been raised by an under-movement; and hence the rock is frequently found in a shivered state, and sometimes forming knolls above the more compact beds below.

Trap or whinstone, also, is of frequent occurrence, and many of the elevations of the parish are formed of it. Where the masses are exposed, they are usually found to rest upon sandstone or limestone. Different varieties of it are met with; but nowhere does it assume the columnar form. Greenstone is not uncommon. Carniel Hill presents us with loose sand and freestone raised to a considerable elevation, as if by some under-movement, and with



masses of trap overlying these like a cap. On the top of the hill, there is a hollow of some depth, which is always more or less filled with water, and which, without a stretch of imagination, may be supposed to have been the aperture through which the igneous matter forced itself. Indeed, the appearance of the trap, as seen distinctly overcapping the sandstone, and forming precipitous masses on one side of the hill, strongly countenances the idea of its having partially upheaved, and at last forced its way, when in a liquid state, through the strata on which it now rests.

In the neighbourhood of the village of Carnock, there is a bed of white indurated clay, apparently of considerable depth and extent, which is usually denominated *carom*, and is much sought after for domestic purposes. It dips towards the south, and lies immediately under a stratum of rich soil and clay of considerable depth. The layers are very regular and compact; but the joints are numerous, and extend in all directions, so that no piece of any great magnitude is ever dug out. This stone receives a fine polish; and being so soft as to be turned on an ordinary lathe, it is frequently manufactured into small articles. The bed seems gradually to pass into the strata of slaty and shaly substances that lie to the east of it. It is not found in any other part of the parish, nor, so far as we can learn, in any great quantity in any of the neighbouring parishes; and hence, as it is in some request, it is carried to considerable distances for sale.

Ironstone is frequently met with in the parish, especially on the lands of Pitdinnies and Blair. The quality is considered rich, particularly of that which is found on the Pitdinnies; but on neither estate has the ore been wrought.

Coal is diffused generally throughout the parish, and was at no distant period wrought in five different places. The only mine at present in operation, is on the estate of Blair, in the west of the parish. It has been wrought for a long time past, but with greater spirit of late years than formerly. It consists of four different seams of coal. The uppermost, a three feet seam, is a *blind* coal, used by brewers and maltsters. The others are house-coal of different qualities, and are 6, 4, and  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet in thickness respectively. Part of all these seams have been wrought, and are at present working. The produce, which is about 2000 tons annually, is almost wholly used in home consumption. The entire depth of the pit, which is at present wrought, is twenty-three fathoms. A dike cuts one of the seams near to the pit, causing a

considerable derangement in the strata, and changing altogether the quality of the coal. The coals were, till of late, drawn up by a horse gin; but a small engine, upon the high pressure principle, which was set up for keeping the pit clear of water, now draws up the coals also.

The coal in other parts of the parish, though not wrought, is not exhausted. On the north-east, most of the upper seams, branching off from Lord Elgin's coal-works, in the parish of Dunfermline, and cropping out in Carnock, have been wrought out. The lower seams, however, have not, it is understood, been yet touched.

Limestone was formerly quarried in considerable quantities on the lands of Luscar; but though it still exists there and in some other spots, none is at present wrought in any part of the parish. In the neighbourhood of the places where it is known to exist, there sometimes is found what the workmen call *bastard* limestone, or a mixture of whin and limestone.

Freestone is quarried in several places. The principal quarry, however, in the parish, is on the estate of Carnock, where the rock is of great extent and considerable thickness, and may be wrought without almost any tiring. The stone of this quarry, though somewhat softer than the freestone in the south part of the parish, is more easily quarried, and may be cut out of almost any length. Owing to the distance from water carriage, and the abundance of excellent freestone in the neighbouring districts, the demand for stones at this quarry is not great, except in the immediate locality. There are three kinds of stone in the bed which composes this quarry: the first being white and soft when dug, and gradually hardening when exposed to the weather; the second being of a somewhat darker colour, and harder quality; and the third being of a bluish-black colour, and capable of receiving a fine polish. This last lies alongside of the others throughout the whole extent of the bed, and seems to form part of the same rock. The direction and dip of the strata appear, so far as they can be traced, to be uniform throughout; and the fissures, though numerous, scarcely occasion any derangement in the component parts of the rock. Yet the stone passes from the one colour to the other frequently in the smallest discernible space. The colouring substance of the black stone is evidently of a bituminous nature; but how it should have impregnated one part of the bed and not the other is not easily accounted for. The outer portion of the black rock,



which is more exposed than the rest of the quarry, is, in some places, broken into large masses, and assumes a cliff-like form. But whether the mass may have been, at any former period, submerged under any fluid which could have given it its dark hue, can only be matter of conjecture. It is certain, that the substances, which at present are thinly spread over its surface, could not have produced this effect; for they are the same as those which partially cover the face of the white portion of the rock. In the former Statistical Account of the parish, the writer, speaking of the black rock, says, "This stone will stand the fire, and the longer it is exposed to it, it becomes the more durable, and contracts the blacker hue." This, however, is a mistake; for the fact is, that this stone, when subjected to the heat of an ordinary fire, soon becomes red-hot, loses entirely its black colour, exhibits to the eye a coarser texture than before, and is more friable.

No fossil organic remains belonging to the animal kingdom have been, so far as is known, found at any time in the rocks of this parish. A few belonging to the vegetable kingdom have been met with, which were chiefly lepidodendrons. And, as marking the action of the watery element, it may be mentioned, that some of the slabs which have been dug out of the freestone quarry on the Carnock estate show very distinctly the ripple of the wave upon them.

The chief alluvial deposits are sand, gravel, loam, clay, and moss. In the last mentioned of these, trees in a considerable state of preservation are found imbedded. The soil varies much, and often within a small space. In the southern division of the parish it is more fertile; yet in some of the northern parts it is scarcely inferior. But the difference of exposure gives a considerable advantage to the former in point of climate. In some places, the soils have much depth; but generally they are the reverse,—resting principally on sandstone, whinstone, and a hard clayey subsoil, rather wet than otherwise, and consisting chiefly of loam, clay, and gravel. Boulders are frequently met with near the surface; but none of them have been found of any great size. They consist chiefly of whin. Moles are frequent in the loamy soils. But the farmers seem not to consider them hurtful, as no mole-catchers are employed in the parish.

*Zoology.*—The birds are those ordinarily met with in the district. The very rare visitant, the greater butcher-bird, was seen in the parish in the spring of 1838. The whinchat, a bird rather uncommon in the district, is occasionally found here. Snowflakes

appear in large flights during severe winters. Attempts have been made to introduce the pheasant; but the want of proper covers and the depredations of the poacher have prevented their success. An individual of the species, however, is occasionally seen.

*Botany.*—Of the rarer plants, the following, kindly pointed out to me by Andrew Dewar, Esq. surgeon, Dunfermline, may be mentioned. Their localities are added;—

Eleocharis multicaulis, Carnock Moor	Mentha viridis, Carneil
Melica nutans, Blair Dean	——— variety <i>crispa</i> , Do.
Galium uliginosum, Do.	Lamium maculatum, of Reichenbach, Do.
Potamogeton heterophyllum, Carnock M.	Nasturtium sylvestre, Bonhard
Primula elatior, Pittinnies	Corydalis claviculata, Carnock Moor
Trientalis Europæa, Clune	Senecio saracenicus, Do.
Saxifraga tridactylites, Carneil	Ophioglossum vulgatum, Carneil.
Chelidonium majus, Carnock village	

The rein-deer moss is found in considerable profusion in Carnock Moor.

*Wood.*—The plantations in this parish cover several hundred acres of ground; and, being laid out with considerable taste and skill, they serve both to beautify and shelter the lands. They consist chiefly of the different kinds of fir, intermixed with oaks, elms, planes, &c. On the lands of Clune there is, besides several belts and hedge-rows of trees, a considerable plantation of Scotch firs, of nearly a hundred years growth, and of superior quality. And on the same estate, there is a large clump of aged beeches, which both shelter and ornament the surrounding grounds. In Luscar Dean, which is all planted, and where a few trees of considerable age and height are found, there was a venerable beech, of which mention is made in the former Account of the parish, evidently of great antiquity, but the age of which was unknown. It was dignified by the name of the “Queen of the Dean.” Growing on the slope of a confined glen, and closely surrounded with other trees, it was not seen to advantage. But even near at hand it appeared a magnificent tree. Its girth at the ground was 16 feet, and at seven feet above that point, 13 feet 8 inches. Of the two large limbs into which it separated, the one was 9 feet thick, and the other nearly the same. Its height was upwards of 100 feet. This tree, however, was blown down one stormy night in the spring of last year.

Of late years, a large number of trees, which must have been planted above a hundred years ago by Colonel Erskine, and which had attained their full growth, or were partially going into decay, have been cut down on the estate of Carnock. A considerable number, however, evidently planted by the same spirited gentle-



man, and disposed chiefly in rows, still remain. They consist principally of oak, plane, ash, and beech. One of the beeches, which grows near the village, is worthy of notice, both for its size, being 11 feet 10 inches in circumference at the ground, and 11 feet 3 inches at seven feet from the ground; and especially for its long, pendulous, and limber branches, which, when the tree is in full flourish, give it an appearance of singular beauty. Upwards of a hundred acres of this estate lying together were planted nearly forty years ago, besides patches of considerable extent at different periods since.

On the lands of Blair, the plantations cover about 120 acres; some of them upwards of seventy, and others of them thirty, and fifteen years old. They are all in a thriving state, and profitable. Those which are near the mansion-house are tastefully disposed and ornamental. The southern part of the parish, comprehending Whinny hill, and the Pitdinnies, shews also several belts of planting judiciously placed, and these, together with an extensive plantation on the immediately neighbouring grounds, skirting along the whole eastern boundary of the above named farms, and lying partly within the parish, give this district also the appearance of being well wooded.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The principal notices regarding this parish are to be found in its session records, and in the records of the Presbytery of Dunfermline. From these, it appears to have been formerly of much smaller extent than it is at present:—comprehending only the barony of Carnock, which included the present estate of Carnock, together with the lands of Blair, and Easter and Wester Camps. The Pitdinnies, the lands of Luscar, and those of Clune, originally belonged to the parish of Dunfermline, and were disjoined from it, and annexed to Carnock in the commencement of the year 1650. The following entry is found in the Presbytery record, August 19, 1649. “The Presbytery having considered the report of Mr John Dunn and James Sibbald, appointed to perambulate and consider the distance of Pitdinnies, Easter and Wester Luscar, and the Clune, from the kirk of Dunfermline and the kirk of Carnock, they find it necessary that the said landis be disjoined from the kirk of Dunfermline, and annexed to the kirk of Carnock; and recommend the same to the commissione for the plantation of kirks, to be ratified by their authoritie.” And from a subsequent entry, it appears that this recommendation was car-

ried into effect in the following year. Sibbald, in his History of Fife says, that "the Lord Lyndsay of Byres got this parish by marriage of a brother daughter of Dalhousie; and they kept it till King Jame VI.'s time, that Sir George Bruce, the predecesor of the Earls of Kincardine, got it." The Acts of the Parliament of Scotland 1609, inform us that the lands of Pittinnies were conveyed to Edward Bruce of Kinloss, and his wife, along with the patronage of the kirk and parish of Torrie. The charter conveying the barony of Carnock, with the patronage of the kirk thereof, to Sir George Bruce, is dated, as appears from the same Acts of Parliament, the 4th May 1602. From the same writing we learn, that the church of Carnock belonged originally to the ministry of Scotland-well, and was disjoined from it when Sir George Bruce received infestment of the barony.

Chalmers in his Caledonia says, that "in the year eighty-three of the Christian era, Agricola the Roman general, in endeavouring to conquer the northern parts of Scotland, passed the Forth, and encamped his army in the now parish of Carnock." And the circumstance that the name Camps is given to one of the localities in the parish, and that several Roman urns were dug up some years ago on Carneil hill, renders his statement probable. He says again, "Upon Carneil hill, near Carnock, the Horestii appear to have had a strength, as we might learn from the prefix of the name; the caer of the British signifying a fort."\*

*Eminent Men.*—The connection of the Bruces with this parish appears, from what has been already mentioned, to have commenced in the year 1602. Edward Bruce, the first Lord Kinloss, "was a man of superior talents, learning, and integrity," and was eminently instrumental in the peaceable accession of James VI. to the throne of England. His second son, Thomas, third Lord

\* The people of Carnock were formerly staunch Covenanters. The following notice regarding the first swearing of the Solemn League and Covenant is worthy of being recorded. It is extracted from the earliest of the session records, and is in the handwriting of John Row. "The 5 of November 1643. The covenant of thir three kingdoms, Scotland, England, and Irland, wes solemnlie sworne to, and subscribit be the parishioners of Carnock, and all that cude wreat subscribit their names in the book qrin the printed covenant was, and the rest of the parishioners yt culd not subscribe themselves subscribit be Jhone Andersone, Notar pvblik Dunferlyne, he tuiching their hands as the use is, at the communion table in the kirk of Carnock, as the book qlk is in my possession will testifie. Qlk action was done verrie solemnlie after I had taught the historie of Joshua's covenant, Josh. 24 cap. fra the 14 verse to the 29." Again, during the ministry of Mr Belfrage, we find the following entry. "Dec. 17, 1648, The quhilk day the Solemn League and Covenant was renewit and sworne, and the public confession of sins was read over againe. The fast was lykewise solemnlie kept this day."



Kinloss, was created Earl of Elgin, by patent, dated 21st June 1663. Sir George Bruce of Carnock appears to have been a person of ability and sagacity. He settled at Culross, where he established extensive and flourishing coal-works. He was representative for the burgh of Culross in the Scottish Parliament, and appears to have been frequently on the commission for the plantation of kirks. Edward, his grandson, was created Earl of Kincardine, and Lord Bruce of Torrie, in 1647; and dying without issue, was succeeded in his title and estates by his brother Alexander. The character of Alexander, as drawn by Bishop Burnet, shews him to have been no ordinary man. He died in 1680, and was succeeded by his son Alexander, third Earl of Kincardine, in whose time the estate of Carnock was brought to a judicial sale, and came into the possession of Lieutenant-Colonel John Erskine.

From statements made in the session records, it appears that the Earls of Kincardine occasionally held baronial courts at Carnock, and sometimes assumed the power of expelling the refractory from the parish.

Among other individuals who have resided in the parish, or who have been connected with it by birth or office, there are a few whose names deserve to be mentioned as having honourably distinguished themselves, either by the influence which their counsel and example exercised, or by the active part which they took in questions of public interest. Of these, not the least distinguished was the above-mentioned Colonel Erskine, who became proprietor of the barony of Carnock in the year 1700. He was son of David, second Lord Cardross, and of Mary, sister to the first Earl of Kincardine. Being a zealous Presbyterian, he was a determined opponent of whatever measures tended to injure the Presbyterian cause. He was frequently returned as elder from the Presbytery of Dunfermline to the General Assembly, and was one of the three commissioners whom the Assembly of 1735 sent to London for the purpose of endeavouring to effect a repeal of the Act of the 10th of Queen Anne, restoring patronage. He is spoken of also as a zealous and successful agriculturist, and the estate of Carnock still bears marks of the attention which he paid to planting.

The colonel was succeeded in his estate of Carnock by his eldest son John, who became a distinguished member of the Scotch Bar, and was, for a long period of his life, Professor of Scotch Law in

the University of Edinburgh. The well known Institutes of the Professor were composed, it is said, in his house of Newbigging, in this parish, where he usually resided during the summer months. He resided latterly at Cardross, in Monteith, where he died in the year 1767.

The property belonging to the family in this parish descended to his eldest son, the late Dr John Erskine of Edinburgh. The doctor, who was an eminent minister of the Church of Scotland, and whose worth and talents were well known and highly appreciated both at home and abroad, was first settled at Kirkintilloch, afterwards at Culross, in the Presbytery of Dunfermline, and finally was translated to the Old Greyfriars, Edinburgh, where he had for his colleague the celebrated Principal Robertson. During the period of his residence in Edinburgh, he took an active part in church affairs; and as to much energy of character, and great industry, he joined an ardent piety and an enlightened zeal, he contributed not a little to maintain the purity and the efficiency of the Scottish Kirk. Like several of his ancestors, he was a warm friend both of religious and civil liberty. His thirst after knowledge was great, and continued unabated to his death, which happened A. D. 1803, in the eighty-second year of his age, and the fifty-eighth of his ministry.

Another individual long connected with this parish by office, was Mr John Row. He seems to have been the third minister of it after the Reformation.\* Livingston, in his memoirs as quoted by Gillies, says, that "he was a godly, zealous man, who was careful to collect the most observable passages of Providence in his time. He helped at the General Assembly at Glasgow 1638, to discover sundry corruptions of the former time." His father, who was one of the Reformers, and who was a distinguished Hebrew scholar, and the first that taught that language in Scotland, early initiated him into the knowledge of the Hebrew, so that when eight years of age he read the Hebrew chapter in the family. Being firmly attached to the Presbyterian Church government, and an enemy to the encroachments of Episcopacy, he suffered frequent hardships in consequence, during the ascendancy of the latter. But, being much respected for his piety and integrity, he, though a nonconformist, was permitted to live at his charge; and

\* David Ferguson, afterwards minister of Dunfermline, and James Stewart, were his predecessors. Vide Row's *Historie*, p. 471, just published by the Wodrow Society.



after mourning for a long period over the defections under Prelacy, he was privileged to witness its overthrow, and to assist in effecting the second Reformation. His father-in-law, the celebrated David Ferguson, first Presbyterian minister of Dunfermline, and coadjutor of John Knox, began to write a history of the Church of Scotland, which Mr Row continued. This history, which consists chiefly of an abridgement of the Acts of the General Assembly, and which bears the name of Row's MS., has been published both by the Wodrow Society, and the Maitland Club.

Mr Row was settled minister of Carnock in 1592, and died June 26th 1646, aged seventy-eight years.\*

The eldest son of Mr Row was named John, and attained to such eminence both for his literary accomplishments, and for his zeal in church affairs, that he deserves to be mentioned in connection with his native parish. He was for some time rector of the grammar-school at Kirkaldy, and was afterwards translated to the rectorship of that of Perth, where he taught during twenty years with distinguished ability and success. Subsequently, he turned his attention more particularly to the church, and having gone to Aberdeen he was ordained one of the ministers of that city. In 1652, he was appointed Principal of King's College, Old Aberdeen, in room of Dr Guild, who had been deposed the preceding year. When at the head of this college, he gave great encouragement to learning, and was much respected. He was deprived of his office of Principal after the Restoration in 1661.

\* His death is thus noted in the session records: "Junnie 28.—My father, Mr Johne Row of worthie memorie, being departed this life, I, his youngest sone, Mr William Row, minister of Seres, did preach, and after sermone did hold session." His monument in the church-yard here, which seems to be of considerable antiquity, though the date of its erection is unknown, has the following Latin inscription in raised capitals: "Hic jacet M. Jo. Row, pastor hujus Ecclesiæ Fideliss. vixit accerrimus veritatis et sæderis Scotici assertor: Hic rarchias Pseudoepiscopalis et Romanorum rituum cordicitus osor: in frequenti symmystarum apostasia cubi instar constantissimus. Duxit Gricelidem Fergusoniam, eum qua annis 51 conjunctissime vixit. Huic Ecclesiæ annis. 54 præfuit. Obiit Junnii 26, anno Dom. 1646, ætatis 78. Obiit et illa Januarii 30, 1659.

On another part of Row's monument is the following inscription: "Here lyes Adam Stobie of Wester Luskar, born 1620, died 1711, and Margaret Gibbon, grandchild to Mr John Row, born 1630, died 1670." This Mr Stobie, who belonged to the parish, was a zealous Covenanter, and met, in consequence, with much hard usage. Both tradition, and the facts mentioned by Wodrow, fully establish the truth of the following statement regarding him in the Religious Monitor for October 1808: "He was a gentleman much respected in the country, a man of great spirit and exemplary piety. His house was the resort of many of the ministers and others who were persecuted for conscience sake, in the profligate reign of Charles II. He himself was fined, imprisoned, sent to the Bass, and condemned to be transported beyond seas; but by a wonderful interposition of Providence, was landed in England, and got safe home to his family."

Orem, in his History of Aberdeen, says, that he demitted his charge. He published a grammar and vocabulary of the Hebrew language, besides several tracts, both of a political and of a religious kind.

Nor should we omit to mention Mr Row's immediate successor, the Rev. George Belfrage, who was ordained minister of this parish in the year 1647, and who appears to have been distinguished for his piety and zeal. He lived in troublous times, and suffered for his attachment to the principles of the second Reformation. Being among the nonconformists in the time of Archbishop Sharpe, he was first suspended, and then deposed from the ministry by appointment of that prelate.

Connected with this parish also, as minister for nearly thirty-five years, was the Rev. James Hog, an able, learned, and pious man. After his return from Holland, whither he had gone to complete his education, he received license as a preacher in the Scottish Church, and was first settled as minister of Dalserf. While here, he became involved in a dispute with his Presbytery in consequence of his opposition to the oaths of allegiance and abjuration. Though of undoubted royalty, yet he greatly dreaded the erastian principles which appeared to him to be spreading, and felt himself constrained to testify against them. Subsequently he demitted his charge at Dalserf, and did not for some years accept of another. In 1699, however, he became minister of Carnock, and continued to labour there with general acceptance and much success till his death. The same piety and the same zeal for the liberties and the efficiency of the church as he had shown before, distinguished him now. He took an active share in the Marrow controversy, and was one of those who, in the year 1720, were censured by the General Assembly on account of it. The first edition of the Marrow published in Scotland was prefaced by him, and, besides some of the ablest tracts that appeared in its defence, he wrote several other pieces of considerable merit. He died in the year 1736, leaving behind him a name for distinguished worth and usefulness.

Another minister of this parish was the celebrated Thomas Gillespie, afterwards founder of the Presbytery of Relief. He was licensed to preach the gospel in the year 1740, and in the year following was ordained by a class of Dissenting ministers in England, of which Dr Doddridge was moderator. The same year he received a call to this parish, and was settled in it on the 4th Sep-



tember.\* In the discharge of his pastoral duties while in Carnock, Mr Gillespie showed great diligence and fidelity. And though there are few now alive who have any personal recollection of him, yet his memory is still cherished throughout the district. Having, with other members of his Presbytery, refused to attend, or to acquiesce in the settlement of Mr Richardson at Inverkeithing, he was summarily deposed by the General Assembly of 1752. This sentence of deposition he received with the Christian meekness which uniformly marked his demeanour. And whatever opinion may be entertained of that part of his conduct which constituted the sole ground of the sentence pronounced against him, no one will question but that he was actuated by a sense of duty. His deposition, however, gave rise to a new sect of Dissenters. But he himself continued "partial to the Establishment to the end of his life; and of this he gave a striking proof, when, on his deathbed, he advised his congregation to apply to the church after his decease, to be restored to her communion: which they afterwards successfully did." His death happened in the beginning of the year 1774.

Before closing these notices, it is right to mention the name of Mr Thomas Marshall, who was a minister of Carnock in the time of Episcopacy, and who seems to have suffered for his adherence to it. The following entry regarding him is found in the session-record of the period: "Sep. 4, 1689, Mr Tho. Marschal, minister, was silenced by the counsell, in not giving obedience to qt

\* An idle report has been circulated, and gained credit in certain quarters, that Mr Gillespie, before his induction, subscribed the confession and formula with reservations and explanations regarding the power of the civil magistrate. Whatever opinions he may have entertained on this subject, it is certain that he tendered no explanation regarding it to the presbytery, when he adhibited the usual subscription. And we believe that he was too single-minded and honest a man to subscribe with any mental reservation. The following extracts, however, from the minutes of Presbytery, and from the book which contains the usual autograph signatures to the formula, should, it is thought, set the matter at rest. After narrating certain circumstances connected with Mr Gillespie's residence in England, &c. the minute of Presbytery proceeds: "After all which, the Presbytery being satisfied with what had been offered, Mr Gillespie was called in, and having declared his adherence to the doctrine, worship, and government of this church, and judicially signed the Confession of Faith and formula, the moderator put the call from Carnock into his hand, which he judicially accepted of, upon which Mr Wardlaw took instruments, and the Presbytery appoint the settlement to take place, Friday, 4th September." Then in the book containing the formula is the following entry in Mr Gillespie's own handwriting: "Dunfermling, August 19th 1741, I, Mr Thomas Gillespie, minister of the gospel, do subscribe the above written Confession of Faith as the confession of my faith, according to the above written formula. Witness my hand at Dunfermling, the 19th day of August one thousand seven hundred and forty-one. Thos. Gillespie."

then was enjoyn'd." The same record shows him to have been diligent and exemplary in the performance of his pastoral duties.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owners of the parish, arranged according to the extent of their property in it, are, John Stuart, Esq. of Carnock; Sir Peter Halket of Pitfirrane, Bart.; Adam Rolland, Esq. of Gask; Lady Buchan Hepburn of Smeaton Hepburn; and Mrs Mill of Blair.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers, which consist of minutes of session, records of marriages, birth, and burials, and accounts of collections and disbursements, commence in 1642, and come down, with a few intervals, to the present time. They are comprised in eleven volumes of various sizes, some of which are much injured, and one of them the duplicate of another that is now scarcely legible. An earlier volume than any of the present seems once to have existed; but it appears not to have continued long in the hands of the session, as the following entry in the record intimates: "Junii 20, 1647, The kirk registers were produced, viz. the covenant and declaration, the acts of the General Assembly holden at Glasgow 1638, &c. The old session book was amissing." The loss of this volume is much to be regretted, because it evidently comprehended the early part of Mr Row's ministry, and would probably have thrown much light on the state of the parish at that period. The covenant also, another precious relic, with its signatures, disappeared at a subsequent time.

The first of the existing volumes wants thirteen leaves at the beginning. It contains the minutes of session from January 30, 1642, to February 16, 1662; as also an account of collections and disbursements, and a few notices of baptisms. The first part of this volume appears to be in the handwriting of Mr Row, and contains several interesting particulars, both of a local and a general character. The greater part of the remainder of the volume, which comprehends the incumbency of Mr Belfrage, seems to have been written by the schoolmaster of the time. This latter fact is noticed on account of the beauty of the writing, which shows the schoolmaster of that period to have been a superior penman to most of the clerks that succeeded him, and which indicates a higher degree of literary attainment than what some men are willing to admit as belonging to the time.

The principal blanks in the registers are from February 1662, to February 1665, and from March 2, 1693, to October 23, 1699.

The more early of these records throw considerable light on the



times to which they refer, and bear a strong testimony to the advantages which the country at large derives from the National Church, and show with what intelligence and zeal the men who then administered her affairs laboured to reform a rude people, and to promote their intellectual and moral advancement. The discipline exercised was strict and minute. And, though the power that was sometimes assumed may now appear unwarrantable, yet, when we consider the state of the times referred to, and the faithful ministrations with which it was accompanied, we shall be constrained to admit both that it was not overstretched, and that it was used simply with a view to the good of the people themselves. Indeed, almost all beneficial undertakings seem to have then originated with the Established Church, or to have been countenanced and furthered by her. The interests of education, the maintenance of the poor, the ransoming of such as had been carried into slavery, the repairing of damage occasioned by fire, the building or improving of harbours, bridges, and other public works—these objects, in addition to the more peculiar duties of their office, engaged the attention of ministers and elders, and showed them to have been men of sagacity and benevolence no less than of piety.\*

\* The following extracts may be regarded as confirmatory of these remarks, as well as interesting in themselves:—"The 3 of November 1643, We, ministeris of the Presbyterie of Dunfer. haifing resolvit to intertene a bursar at the new colledge in St Andrews, we stentet qt every kirk within the said Presbyterie suld pay, yt he mycht be intertened and Carnock was stentet to pay 3 libs. and thairfor Mr John.....present bursar, cam to my house the day foresaid, and receivit the said 3 libs."—"Oct. 3. 1647. Having mist some of our people out of the church this afternoon, it was enacted, that some of our elders, day about, should go through the parish one the Lord's day, and see who was absent remaining in their houses; and if some just and lawll cause detained them not, that they should be censured." This regulation was long after continued in Carnock."—"Oct. 29, 1647. I did exhort the elders that they wold be carefull to search and try the parish if ther wer any neighbour at discord wt another, and let them be warned in before the sessioun, that their friendship might be mad, and the day appointed for this purpose to be Thursday next. Nov. 4. The qlk day Andrew Creich and David Anderson came in, and were reconciled."—"Nov. 14. Ther was delivered to Robt. Creich, our ruling elder, for the repairing of Cramment brig, 4 lib., qlk was delivered."—"November 21. I did shew unto the sessione, that one day of the week must be attendit for weekly examinations, and that one or more elders should be always present."—"Decem. 12. The qlk day it was ordained by the sessione, that the children of poor ones should have the benefit of learning to read, and therefore because they are unable to pay thier quarter payments the sessione ordains," &c.—"Decem. 19. Orders given to procure "directiones for family worship," for the use of the parishioners."—"Apr. 30. Ordained, that no more than 24 persons be at penny bridalls, under a penalty of a dollar."—"My Lord Kincardine came to Carnock this 12 of this instant of Oct. and, having held a court, he settled the maintenance of the school to be the somme of a hundred pounds," &c.—"March 18. 1649. Deacons appointed.—15 Febr. "A general collection throw the parochie for the poor" ordered.—"7 March 1652. Publick intimation was made from the pulpit of a collection for the supplie of some prisoners that were taken captive at Dunbar, and are now very hardlie dealt withal."—"6th July 1656. The session, at a

*Antiquities.*—In the charter granted to Sir George Bruce of the barony of Carnock, mention is made of the tower of Carnock; and tradition assigns a Roman camp to a farm in the parish which bears the name of Camps. No vestiges of either, however, are now to be found. Remains of Roman urns were dug up by the plough on Carneil hill more than twenty years ago, and a few coins have been occasionally met with; but no certain information about them has been obtained by the writer.

In the former Statistical Account of the parish notice is taken of “an ancient cross,” situated in the northern division of the village. “This cross,” it is said, “is of a circular form, containing six rounds of stone steps, rising one above another, and gradually diminishing in diameter as they ascend. In the middle grows a venerable thorn tree, which was, even within these few years, covered with leaves and blossoms in summer; but is now much decayed.” This venerable thorn, which was probably more than two hundred years old, being reduced at last to a decayed trunk and a single branch, and in constant danger of falling, was a few years ago cut down. The cross itself has also been removed. The road-maker being abroad, and finding the venerable “rounds of steps” in his way, first got them remodelled, and then pulled down altogether. And thus, though our carriage-way has been greatly improved in consequence, we have been deprived of almost the only relic of the olden times that we possessed. Several references are made to the “thorne” in the session record. The following entry is characteristic: “Feb. 6, 1653. Forasmuch as it has been found yt many breaches of the Lord’s holy Sabbath has been occasioned by people’s gathering about the thorne on the Sunday afternoone, some by yr buying and selling of servant’s corne in the harvest, and some by other frivolous and idle dis-

meeting of this date, granted leave to certain persons to erect a seat for themselves in the church, and “every one of them are to give in 24s. to the poor.”—“12 July 1657, The elders wer appointed once in the moneth to give ane accompt of those under yr severall charges, and to see who are sick, under necessity, scandalous in yr carriage, or defective in familie deities.”—“21 Feb. 1658, A collection was publickly intimat for the relief of a poor man in Sauling, called Rot. Harrower, who had his house brunt.”—“22 May 1659, Given to a stranger supplicant, 6s. To another stranger supplicant, 4s. To a poor disabled souldier, 2s.”—“18 Decr. 1659, There was a contribution intimat to be for the support and supplie of the people in Pittenweyme, &c. who had suffered so much skaith by the inundation of waters.”—“15 April 1660. The elders were exhorted to visit the sick more frequently, for the minister declared, that the sick told him yt few or none of the elders came to them, and they were sharply rebuked.”—“29 July 1666. There was a contribution intimat for repairing the harboree of Inverkeithing.”



courses dishonour God—therefore it was appointed yt every one sall repaire to yr owne houses immediatelie after sermones are ended, yt the rest of the Lord's day remaining may be employed by masters and others in the family in repeating of sermones, catechising, and other religious exercises; and if hereafter any sall be found standing about ye thorne, they shall be conveyned before the kirk-session, and censured according to the nature of yr disobedience."

The designation *Law Know*, given to a small eminence in the neighbourhood of the village of Carnock, may be also mentioned, as pointing out a place where, it is probable, in feudal times, the vassals and dependents were assembled by their superiors for deciding their differences, and administering justice.

*Modern Buildings.*—Of these there are few to be noticed. The mansion-house of Newbigging, in which the Institutes of the Law of Scotland were composed, is still standing. It was designed, it is said, by one of the Adams, and affords but an indifferent specimen of his art at the time. It is at present used as a farmhouse, and considered a very indifferent one. There is a plain and substantial house on the estate of Blair, which was built about thirty years ago. And at Luscar a handsome residence, in the old English or Elizabethan style, has been lately built. And on the estate of Carnock Mr Stuart has just erected a small but commodious dwelling. A new church has also been lately erected, which, though it be a plain structure, is yet, independently of its utility, a great ornament to the place. It is in the Saxon style, and in the form of a cross, with a handsome spire, and groined ceiling. There is a single corn-mill in the parish. It goes both by water and steam.

### III.—POPULATION.

Nothing very certain can be mentioned regarding the ancient state of the population of the parish, except that it seems to have been more scattered than it is at present. Judging from the register of births, the number of inhabitants, nearly 200 years ago, would not amount to much above 350. At that time, the village of Carnock was the only one in the parish, and of small extent. The others are of comparatively recent date. And as manufactures had then made little progress, the population was chiefly engaged in agricultural pursuits, and in the domestic labours which were then requisite for procuring the necessary supplies of food and clothing.

According to Dr Webster's survey in 1755, the population was	583
From a survey made in . . . . . 1781, . . . . .	912
Do. . . . . 1791, . . . . .	970
By Government census in . . . . . 1801, . . . . .	860
Do. . . . . 1811, . . . . .	884
Do. . . . . 1821, . . . . .	1136
Do. . . . . 1831, . . . . .	1204
Do. . . . . 1841, . . . . .	1269

The cause of the decrease shown by the census of 1811 appears to have been the ceasing of some coal-works in the parish, about the commencement of the century; and the increase which the subsequent surveys give is sufficiently accounted for by the improvements in trade, manufactures, and agriculture.

At the close of the year 1841 the following were the results:—

Number of persons residing in villages,	891
the country,	378
The yearly average of births for the last seven years,	33
deaths,	217
marriages,	102
The number of persons under 15 years of age,	501
betwixt 15 and 30,	245
30 and 50,	268
50 and 70,	181
upwards of 70,	24
bachelors upwards of 50 years of age,	4
widowers,	6
widows,	25
unmarried women upwards of 45 years of age,	13
families,	267
The average number of children in each family,	3½
Number of inhabited houses,	251
houses uninhabited or now building,	13
Proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards,	5
Number of fatuous,	1

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of males employed in agriculture,	.	.	87
The number employed in manufactures,	{	masters,	71
		journeymen, &c.	84
handicraft,	{	masters,	27
		journeymen, &c.	15
Professional and other educated men,	.	.	7
Number of labourers not agricultural,	.	.	63
Of these there are employed in mines,	.	.	26
Number of retired tradesmen, superannuated labourers, &c.	.	.	7

*Agriculture.* — The number of imperial acres in the parish which are cultivated, is 1665. The number uncultivated, besides what are occupied with roads, fences, &c., is about 45; and of these only a few acres could be profitably added to the cultivated land. 450 acres are under wood.

There is no natural wood in the parish. The plantations consist of larch, spruce, and Scotch firs, oak, beech, elm, chestnut, and ash. The different kinds of fir, the oak, and the beech seem to be best adapted to the soil. The wood of the ash and the elm



is said to be of an inferior quality. Some of the plantations have not been much attended to. The management of them, however, has, of late years, been much improved, and their value in consequence been increased.

*Prices.*—A close cart and wheels with iron axle costs from L.8 to L.10, according to the quality; open carts for corn and hay cost L.3; with wheels, L.6; an iron plough costs L.4; and a wooden plough, L.2; a pair of harrows mounted costs L.2; a break harrow for two or three horses costs from L.1, 10s. to L.2; fanners vary in price from L.6 to L.8; a turnip barrow costs L.1; a stone roller from L.3 to L.4; the price of an iron drill plough is L.2, 10s., and of a wooden one, L.1; a horse-hoe costs L.1; a grubber, L.8; a paring plough costs L.2; a drill sowing-machine varies in price according to the width: one used in the parish cost L.11; riddles average 3s. 6d. each; a bushel costs 12s.; a potato firlo, 10s. 6d.; harness of a pair of horses for cart and plough is bought for L.10; a grape costs 3s.; a spade, 3s. 6d.; a shovel, 4s.; a mattock, 4s.; a horse-shoe made and driven costs 9d., iron furnished by the smith; laying plough-irons, 1s. 3d., iron also furnished by the smith; sharpening plough-irons, 2d.; shoeing a pair of cart wheels, including iron, L.1, 7s.; building rubble wall per rood, exclusive of material, L.2, 5s.; plastering per yard, do. 3d.; a horse and cart per day, 4s. 6d.; a day's ploughing, 8s.

*Live-Stock.*—A considerable number of sheep are grazed in the parish. The cattle commonly reared are the Fife and Teeswater; but small attention is paid to the improvement of the breed. The number of cattle reared in the parish is not great,\*—the attention of the farmers being more directed to the raising of grain than to grazing. The horses differ not from those generally used in the district, and are, for the most part, kept in good condition.

The general state of husbandry in the parish is at least equal to that in the surrounding district. Ploughing is executed, for the most part, in a superior style; but the reaping is often done in rather a careless manner, much grain being left on the field. Draining, both with stones and tiles, is at present carried on with much spirit, on almost every farm in the parish, and with the most beneficial results.

The general duration of leases is nineteen years; and these are chiefly, it is believed, drawn up in such a way as to be mutually advantageous to the proprietor and the tenant.

Farm-buildings have been much improved of late years; and

\* Of late, however, a good many have been fattened for slaughter.

the whole of them are now in a respectable and comfortable condition. Some of them are very complete. They are all covered either with slate or tile. Thrashing-mills are attached to them all, except one; and of these, six are driven by horses, one by water, four by steam, and one by steam and water. At three of the farms are saw-mills. The enclosures also have been of late much attended to, and considerably improved. They consist both of stone fences and hedges. The latter are increasing. A considerable extent of stone wall, in the south part of the parish, has lately been removed, and been replaced by hedges; and of the many new enclosures which have been recently formed, not one has been of stone. The hedges are in general well managed, and in good condition.

The rents are generally a fixed money rent, without reference to the fiars. The tenantry, for the most part, are in comfortable circumstances; and the families of several of them have been long on the farms which they at present occupy. They are a sober and industrious body of men. But, perhaps, a greater command of capital on their part, and greater encouragement on the part of proprietors, would be necessary to enable them to turn the whole capabilities of the land to account.

*Produce.*—The average gross amount of raw produce may be stated as under;—

Wheat, 125 acres,	.	.	.	.	.	L.1250	0	0
Barley, 228	.	.	.	.	.	1300	0	0
Oats, 450	.	.	.	.	.	2362	0	0
Beans, 105	.	.	.	.	.	805	0	0
Potatoes, 92	.	.	.	.	.	992	0	0
Turnips, 56	.	.	.	.	.	448	0	0
Hay, 161	.	.	.	.	.	805	0	0
Flax,	.	.	.	.	.	5	0	0
Pasture, 290	.	.	.	.	.	237	0	0
Thinnings of wood,	.	.	.	.	.	250	0	0
Gardens,	.	.	.	.	.	100	0	0
Cattle, supposing 200 annually sold,	.	.	.	.	.	1200	0	0
Horses, supposing 30 annually sold,	.	.	.	.	.	450	0	0
Coals and stones,	.	.	.	.	.	650	0	0
Miscellaneous produce, including pigs, sheep, butter, &c.	.	.	.	.	.	1600	0	0

Total yearly value of raw produce, L.11,454 . 0 0

The amount of capital sunk in the different articles of manufacture required for the various purposes of husbandry, as carts ploughs, &c., and in horses employed in agriculture, may be estimated at L.4896.

*Manufactures.*—There are no spinning-mills nor public manufactures in this parish. No fewer, however, than 205 persons are



employed in weaving,—155 males, and 50 females. They are all, with the exception of one or two, who do country work, dependent upon the neighbouring town of Dunfermline, and get their webs from thence ready for the loom. The kinds of cloth worked are table-linens and table-covers. These last consist of cotton and worsted. The number of looms in the parish is 208. Of these, 159 are mounted with Jacquard machines, and may average in value, along with the machine, L.15. The remaining looms, which are without machines, may average L.4 each. The value of the whole looms in the parish may be estimated at L.2500, reckoning them at what they cost when new. A gross of pirns, value 2s., is generally allowed to each loom. Connected with this branch of manufacture, also, there are in use 83 pairs of wheels and swifts. Each pair, consisting of a wheel and a swift, costs from 11s. to 14s. These are used in winding pirns,—a department of the trade which is generally allotted to females or to young persons. Each loom may consume a boll of potatoes during the year in the shape of dressing, or a quantity of flour equal in value. Niffers and rollers, which are used in beaming webs, are also provided by the weavers, and cost L.3 the set. And as a number of persons are required to beam a web, the weavers form themselves into societies, commonly called quarters, and have a set of niffers to each.

Weavers receive so much a spindle for their work; and as that varies with the kind of cloth, and as the quantity wrought by different workmen in a given time differs considerably, it is not easy to ascertain with accuracy their average earnings, either by the day or by the week. It may be stated, however, that at present those employed in weaving can scarcely be said to have a fair remuneration and support from their labours.\*

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There is no market-town in the parish. The nearest is Dunfermline, three miles distant from the centre of Carnock, where there are weekly markets and frequent fairs. The villages in the parish are, Carnock, Gowkhall, and Cairneyhill. A fair for cattle, &c. is held annually at Carnock, on the 26th May; and when that happens to be Sunday, the fair is held on the Saturday previous.

\* This account of the manufactures is properly descriptive of their state a year or two ago; for at present, many of the weavers are out of employment. But it is to be hoped that the depression of trade will only be temporary.

*Means of Communication.*—A penny-post, in connection with Dunfermline, was procured for the village of Carnock in the year 1838, and has proved a great convenience to the inhabitants. It passes daily. The Culross and Kincardine posts also pass through Cairneyhill twice a-day. The only stage-coach is that between Kirkcaldy and Glasgow, which passes daily through Cairneyhill. But from Dunfermline there is communication with Edinburgh twice a-day by coaches; and the steam-boats between Stirling and Edinburgh are easily accessible to our population. Carriers go twice a-week from Cairneyhill to Edinburgh, and once a-week from the same to Auchterarder, Crieff, and Comrie.

The length of turnpike roads in the parish is only between five and six miles. They are kept in good repair. The statute-labour roads, however, are generally very indifferent. The one especially between the villages of Carnock and Cairneyhill, and which forms the principal parish road, was, until lately, in a wretched state. The line is bad, and there is little prospect of getting it altered; so that the intercourse between these villages is very much impeded, especially in winter.

There are six bridges in or on the confines of the parish. They are all small, but in good condition. The two oldest have had an addition made to their width, subsequent to their first erection. Above the arch of the one of these, which is in the village of Carnock, there are two stones with an inscription on each. The one contains the following in raised letters; MR. R. ROW PASTOR ANNO D. 1638; and the other contains the words GEORGE BRUCE OF CARNOK. But whether this date marks the age of the oldest part of the bridge, or of a previous erection, is somewhat uncertain.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The former parish church stood near the village of Carnock, and was conveniently situated for upwards of one-half of the population. It was distant from the furthest extremity of the parish a little more than two miles, and from the nearest somewhat more than one mile. It was old, inconveniently small, and most uncomfortable. The time of its being built is unknown. The date 1602, with the letters G. B., appears on it; but it is evident that part of the building at least was much older than that. From Row's *Historie* just published, it appears that it was repaired in the year 1602, when the roof of heath was replaced by one of heavy gray slate. It was again repaired in the year 1641; and in the year 1815, the gray slate roof was replaced



by one of Eisdale slate. A few years ago, some further repairs were made on it, which rendered it more comfortable. But in 1838, the presbytery, on a report by Gillespie Graham, Esq. Architect, condemned it, and issued a decret for building a new church, in which the heritors unanimously acquiesced. The greater part of the walls still remain, and form an interesting relic of the olden times. The old church bell bore the date 1638; but it was lately recast. On the pulpit, which was of oak, was the date 1674, with this motto, *Sermonem vitæ præbenti*, Phil. ii. 16. The materials of this pulpit have been converted into a chair and table, for the communion elements, in the new church, preserving as much of their original appearance as was consistent with what they have been adopted to.

The new church, which was planned by John Henderson, Esq. Architect, Edinburgh, contains 400 sittings on the ground-floor; provision being made for the erection of galleries afterwards to contain 200 more, if required. It is an exceedingly comfortable place of worship. The site chosen for it is only at a short distance from that of the old church; no other place being more convenient, considering the localities of the parish. It was opened for worship in May 1840, and proves a great accommodation to the parish.

The manse was built in 1802. It underwent some repairs in 1829, and is in pretty good condition; though, from the defects of its construction originally, it is still cold. The old offices were removed in 1829, and the present ones built. They are small, but comfortable. A barn and cart-shed, however, are still to be erected. The glebe contains a little more than eight acres, exclusive of the space occupied by the manse, offices, and garden. It is at present worth L.24 a-year.

The stipend is one of those which receive aid from Government. It consists of 61 bolls, 1 firloft, 1 peck,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lippy of meal; 30 bolls, 3 firlofts, 1 peck,  $3\frac{1}{2}$  lippies of bear; 19 bolls of oats; and L.216, 1s. 4d. Scots, being the whole teinds of the parish. The Government allowance is L.36, 10s. 6d.

The number of persons belonging to the Established Church is 652. The number of families, 127. The average attendance during the summer months may be estimated at 220. The number who are in the habit of attending throughout the year, but not all present at any one time, amounts to upwards of 350. Several persons, belonging to the Establishment, are in the habit of at-

tending worship in the neighbouring parish churches. The number of communicants on the roll at last communion, belonging to the congregation, and exclusive of those who worship in other parishes, was about 200. Previous to 1828, the number on the roll was 93; and in 1833, it was 151.

There is one Dissenting meeting-house in the parish. It originated about 1748, and is situated in the village of Cairneyhill. The congregation belongs to the United Associate Synod. The number of sittings in the meeting-house is 400. The minister's stipend is L.96, derived from seat rents and collections, besides a house and garden, and a glebe of two acres. The whole number of Dissenters of all denominations in the parish is 598. Of these, about 400 profess to belong to the congregation at Cairneyhill; two are Episcopalians, and one a Roman Catholic, who occasionally worship in the parish church; and the remainder, adhering to the United Secession, the Relief, and the Original Burghers, attend places of worship belonging to their respective denominations in Dunfermline. Of those not known to belong to any religious denomination, the number is 19.

The average amount of church collections, &c. yearly for religious and charitable objects, besides the ordinary weekly collections for the poor, may be estimated at upwards of L.10.

*Education.*—There are two schools in the parish; one, the parochial school, in Carnock village; and the other at Cairneyhill.

The branches of instruction taught in the two schools at present existing, are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, English grammar, geography, and sometimes Latin and Greek. The parochial schoolmaster has the maximum salary, and a small mortification of the value of 5s. 6½d. annually. This mortification is the interest of 100 merks bequeathed the kirk-session of Carnock, for behoof of the schoolmaster, by Principal Row, "calling to mynd," as the deed of mortification in the principal's hand-writing states "the place of my birth, and first initiating in letters." The schoolmaster at Cairneyhill has a free school-house; but is otherwise wholly dependent upon the school fees.

Besides the facilities afforded for the education of the young by the two schools already mentioned, the inhabitants of the eastern portion of the parish have the privilege of sending their children to a well-conducted school, which is connected with a public work in the parish of Dunfermline.

In 1834, the number of children at school was 210. Subse-



quently, the number decreased considerably, and has never since reached that number. This diminution, especially of late, has been owing to the depression of trade.

The parochial teacher has barely the legal accommodation. The school-room is small and ill-furnished; and the dwelling-house, which is above, is in ill-repair and uncomfortable.

A seminary for young ladies has for a number of years past been successfully conducted at Cairneyhill, by Mrs More. Besides the ordinary branches of education, there are taught French, Italian, English composition, music, drawing, and other branches, both useful and ornamental, that are usually taught in the most respectable boarding-schools. The terms are moderate, and the seminary is flourishing.

*Libraries.*—There are two libraries in the parish; one in the village of Cairneyhill, which has existed several years; the other in the village of Carnock, which was established by means of collections and subscriptions by the minister in the year 1840, and which now consists of about 250 volumes. The desire for reading has of late been increasing among the people.

*Friendly Societies.*—The only association of this kind in the parish is what is called the Dead Fund, the object of which is to assist in defraying the expenses of funerals. On the occasion of a death in the family of a member, a certain sum is paid out of the fund to the survivors, each member contributing a shilling or a sixpence, as the sum to be paid may be greater or less. This association has proved very beneficial.

*Savings' Banks.*—There is no Savings' Bank in the parish. The nearest is in the town of Dunfermline. A Savings' Bank was established there a good many years ago; but as a national one was opened in 1838, the deposits of the old bank were transferred to it. Few persons, however, in this parish avail themselves of the advantages which it offers.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons on the permanent poor's roll, including those that are dependent upon them, is 12. Of these some receive 5s. a month, and some as low as 3s. 6d. One pauper receives 2s. a week. Besides those on the permanent roll, there are several that receive occasional relief. The funds to meet these expenses consist of collections at the church doors, mortcloth-dues, the interest of L.200 of money accumulated in former years by the session, and now invested in the Dunfermline gas stock, and a voluntary assessment by the

heritors when required. The average annual amount of church collections for relief of the poor may be estimated at L.11, 7s. 7d. The mortcloth-dues now yield a very small sum, as in these days of reform many think it better to support a small concern of their own, than to be the means of contributing a little for the relief of the poor by using the parish mortcloth; and the heritors do not choose to litigate the matter with them. The burden on account of the poor of this parish, however, is by no means heavy. The sum annually distributed among paupers on permanent roll, in occasional relief to persons not on roll, and in the education of poor children, has not, on an average of several years, exceeded L.36; a fact which testifies to the general comfort of the population, and shows that there is a creditable disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief.

*Fairs.*—Only one fair is held in the parish in the year. It is chiefly a cattle and shoe market, and is held on the 26th May, except when that happens to be Sunday, in which case the fair is held on the 27th. Much business used formerly to be transacted at it; but now the attendance is comparatively small.

*Inns.*—When the former account of the parish was written, the number of inns or alehouses appears to have been ten, viz. four in Carnock, five in Cairneyhill, and one at Blair. A considerable improvement has since taken place in this respect, for the number of these houses now amounts only to five, viz. two in Carnock, two in Cairneyhill, and one at Gowkhall.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the only fuel used in the parish. It is procured either at the Blair colliery in the parish, or at some of the pits in the neighbouring parish of Dunfermline. The price of the former varies from 5s. to 6s. a ton of 20 cwt., and that of the latter from 5s. to 6s., and sometimes more, a ton, at the pit mouth.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, the general appearance of the parish has evidently been much improved. With the exception of a few acres of moor, and of what is occupied by wood, roads, fences, and water, the whole surface is under cultivation. Agriculture has greatly improved; the means of communication has much increased; trade and manufactures have received a new impulse. Farms have been enlarged. Oxen are no longer employed in husbandry. Thrashing-machines are in general use. Draining is now much attended to. Bone-dust is used extensively in turnip husbandry. The rental of the parish,



which in 1791 amounted to L.1100 a year, including the proceeds of the feus, may now be estimated at nearly L.3000. And it is not to be doubted that the population generally have kept pace with their neighbours, in the ordinary comforts of life, and in their endeavours to increase them.

*January 1843.*

## PARISH OF ABERDOUR.\*

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. HUGH RALPH, LL.D., MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Extent, &c.*—THE name Aberdour, in Gaelic, signifies “the mouth of the water,” referring in this instance to a rivulet, which empties itself into the Forth, a little below the village. It is bounded by the parish of Dalgety on the west; by those of Beath and Auchtertoul, on the north; by Kinghorn and Burntisland, on the east; and by the Forth, on the south; being, at an average, about three miles from east to west, and as much from north to south. A small part of the parish is detached from the rest, by the intervening parishes of Burntisland and Kinghorn, and lies at the distance of four or five miles. The number of acres may be about 5000. The parish is divided by a ridge of hills, running nearly from east to west. The north part is a cold and bleak track, considerably above the level of the sea, and, excepting what has been done by one of the heritors on the north-west corner of the parish, altogether unsheltered, either by hedges or plantations. The soil is cold and sour. On the south of this ridge, both the soil and the climate are much more kindly.

*Coast.*—The parish stretches along the shore above two miles. From the east boundary the coast is rugged and steep, and generally covered with wood to the water’s edge. The trees have been planted with a proper regard to effect, and the jutting rocks which appear in different places, render the whole extremely picturesque and beautiful. This wood is intersected with

\* From notes furnished by a parishioner of Aberdour.

walks cut out on the face of the hill, from which the prospects are rich and varied. On the west, there is a beautiful white sandy bay, surrounded with trees. Here the grounds rise gently to the west, bordered by thriving plantations; and stretching southward, they terminate in a perpendicular rock washed by the sea.—By this rock on the east, and by headlands on the south-west, the small harbour of Aberdour is well-sheltered from all winds.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Inchcolm.*—The parish of Aberdour belonged to the monastery of Inchcolm. This monastery was founded about the beginning of the twelfth century by Alexander I. in consequence of a vow. Sibbald says, that the western part of Aberdour was given by one of the Mortimers to this monastery, for the privilege of burying in the church. There is a tradition, that the corpse of one of the family was thrown overboard in a storm, which gives the name of Mortimer's Deep to the channel between the island and the shore. This western part of Aberdour, together with the lands and barony of Beath, are said to have been acquired from an Abbot of Inchcolm, by James, afterwards Sir James Stuart, second son of Andrew Lord Evandale, grandfather by his daughter to the admirable Crichton, and by his second son, Lord Doune, to Sir James Stuart, who married the daughter of the Regent Murray. Lord Doune was Commendator of the monastery of Inchcolm at the Reformation. The whole of the above-mentioned property, together with the island itself, is still in the family of Moray, with the title of St Colme. The Earl of Moray attempted to cover the island with trees, which would have increased its picturesque appearance, but the attempt did not succeed.—(Old Stat. Account.)

*Antiquities.*—Not far from the village of Aberdour, on a flat on the top of a hill, there is one of those cairns or tumuli so frequently met with in Scotland. A coffin and several earthen vessels, containing human bones, were found in it. A small plain tombstone erected on the south wall of the old church to the memory of the Rev. Robert Blair, minister of St Andrews, in Fife, and Chaplain to Charles I., who was ejected from his charge by Archbishop Sharp in 1661, and died at Couston, in this parish, 1666. The inscription is in Latin, but nearly defaced.

*Parochial Registers.*—These consist of minutes of kirk-session, commencing in 1649; baptisms in 1663; distributions to poor, 1658; collections at the kirk, 1659; marriages, 1669; deaths,



1658 to 1669, when a register ceased to be kept, but was renewed by the present session-clerk in 1817.

*Land-owners.*—The principal of these, with their valuations are, the Earl of Morton, L.2900, 14s. ; Earl of Moray, L.2190, 1s. 7d. ; William Fraser, L.836 ; Major Rose, L.321, 15s. 10d. ; William Inglis, L.255, 6s. 8d. ; Robert Wemyss, L.223 ; J. Drysdale, L.205 ; J. Boswell, L.83 Scotch money.

*Mansion-Houses.*—These are, Aberdour House, Hillside House, Whitehill Cottage, Cuttlehill House, and Templehall.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount in 1811,	.	1302
1821,	.	1489
1831,	.	1751
Aberdour village,	.	908
In the country,	.	983
— Total, 1891 in 1841.		

Number of illegitimate births in the parish within the last three years, about 7 or 8.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

Number of acres, standard imperial measure, in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage, about	3240
Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste, or in pasture, about	1200
Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land of the parish, whether that land were afterwards to be kept in occasional tillage or in permanent pasture, probably about	400
Number of acres under wood, planted,	1800

*Rent.*—Average rent of land, L.2 Sterling per acre. Real rental of the parish, L.4000 Sterling.

Reclaiming waste land and drainage of cultivated land have been the chief improvements of late.

*Manufactures.*—Not more than eight or nine hand-loom weavers are employed in the weaving of ticking. There are two saw-mills for cutting wood ; also, an iron-mill for manufacturing spades, &c. driven by water.

*Fishings.*—Oyster-fishing is carried on to a very limited extent.

*Navigation.*—Two pinnaces ply betwixt this and the port of Leith for passengers and goods.

### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The number of families in the parish belonging to the Established Church is about 357 ; of Dissenting or Seceding families, about 70, a great proportion of which occasionally attend the parish church ; of Episcopalian families, 1 ; of Roman Catholic families, 1. The extent of the glebe is 4 acres, 1 rood, 38 falls, 6 ells, (Scotch measure.) It is let, at present, at

L.3, 10s. an acre. The manse was built in 1802, and is in very superior condition.

*Education.*—There are 4 schools in the parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, viz. the parochial, a female, Donibristle colliery, and Templehall schools. The yearly amount of the parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum. The probable yearly amount of fees actually paid to the parochial schoolmaster is, on an average, L.30 Sterling per annum. The probable amount of the other emoluments of parochial schoolmaster is about L.10 Sterling, arising from session-clerk's salary and emoluments of office.

An Association on the plan of a saving's bank was recently formed in the parish.

*Poor.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 26 weekly and 12 monthly pensioners, also a lunatic female pauper; total, 39. Average sum allotted to each of such persons, 1s. 6d. per week; L.9, 2s. per annum to the lunatic pauper, besides occasional relief to others. The average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor is about L.80 from voluntary contributions of the heritors; about L.30 from church collections; L.18, 8s. 7d. from alms or legacies.

*February 1843.*

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## PARISH OF KEMBACK.\*

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. J. MACDONALD, D. D., MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish in old writings is variously spelled Camback, Kembek, and Kembok. It is by some held to be the modern form of *Kemp-achar*, "the field of battle;" but it is more generally supposed that the first syllable is derived from the name of the Kem or Kame, a brook which, taking its rise in the hills of Scoonie parish, about seven miles west, traverses Kemback parish and is there united to the Eden. The course of this brook through a broken and wood-

\* Drawn up by G. Makgill, Esq. of Kemback.



ed glen is highly picturesque, and although on a smaller scale bears much resemblance, in its natural features, to the celebrated pass of Glen Farg at the north-west extremity of Fifeshire. And while Dura Den, as this ravine is called, is the chief attraction to the lover of landscape, the rest of the parish, from the undulating character of the ground, and the abundance of timber, has altogether a richer appearance than most parts of the country, and contrasts favourably with the bare though highly cultivated districts which surround it.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—Kemback is bounded on the east, by a line of two miles in length, running nearly due north and south, which divides it from the parish of St Andrews. Its northern boundary is the river Eden, separating it from Leuchars and Dairsie; it joins Cupar on the west, and Ceres on the south. Its greatest length, which is from north-east to south-west, is about three miles, and it is at few places more than a mile and a-half in breadth. It is formed by a ridge of hills called Nydie or Kemback hills, running through it from east to west, sloping gently towards the south, and somewhat abruptly to the north. The highest point of elevation is Clatto hill, which is 548 feet above the level of the sea. Nearly the whole of this range of eminences, not long ago a barren heath, is now covered by thriving plantations.

*Climate.*—From the sheltered position, and the increase of wood, the climate is milder than most of the surrounding country: and many of the inhabitants have attained to a very advanced age. The beneficial effect of cultivation and drainage on climate and health is shown by the fact, that some of the older inhabitants who have resided in the parish all their lives, recollect that, about fifty or sixty years ago, ague was a very prevalent disorder every spring; whereas this complaint is now scarcely known.

*Soil.*—The parish contains almost every variety of soil, as barren black sand, peat, gravel, black and brown loam, and rich strong clay of great fertility. Much has been done of late years in draining the cold wet soil, with manifest advantage; but on the greater part of the north side of the parish, this is unnecessary, the immediate subsoil being dry loose gravel.

*Fishing.*—The Eden affords tolerably good trout-fishing in spring and autumn, and there is a right of salmon fishing attached to the lands of Kemback, which, however, is now quite unproductive.

*Geology.*—The rocks consist of sandstone, ironstone, shale, and trap. The sandstone is of two kinds, and belongs to two great de-

posits; one of which is connected with the coal formation, and the other with that of the old red sandstone. The geological corresponds with the geographical position of the parish, which occupies an intermediate place betwixt the coal-field on the south, and the old red sandstone on the north. The lower beds of the former rest unconformably on the upper beds of the latter. The trap consists of veins of greenstone and a few isolated patches of clinkstone. A vein of lead ore also occurs in the series.

Dura Den, a beautiful and interesting valley, traverses the parish nearly at right angles to the plain of the sedimentary deposits, and exhibits a well-defined section of the entire series of these beds. Without leaving the road, the whole are laid open to the eye of the observer, and may conveniently be examined in detail.

The geology of this district has lately acquired very considerable celebrity. Dr Anderson was the first who drew the attention of the learned to its interesting relics, in his essay on the Geology of Fifeshire, published in the Transactions of the Highland Society. Since that time it has been visited by some of the most eminent in the science, and commented upon in various publications.

The sandstone beds, which belong to the old red, are here of a bright yellow colour, and attain a thickness of from three to four hundred feet. Their position in the series is determined by their organic remains, which are identical in every respect with those found in the red formation. They also lie conformably on that deposit, as may be observed at the out-crop at Dairsie church, both having an inclination of nearly  $10^{\circ}$ . Towards the base of the rock, the sandstone assumes a variegated reddish appearance, where soft beds of marl or clay are interposed, and which vary from an inch to several feet in thickness. The lineal extent of the deposit, of which a section is here laid open, is nearly a mile, and rises in precipitous mural cliffs of great height, indented with caves, in which the persecuted of a former age are said to have found an asylum.

The whole deposit is extremely rich in organic remains. Several entire fishes, with fins, tail, scales, and thinnest filmy members, have been procured. Along with three or four belonging to completely new species, if not genera, and of which no account has yet been published, specimens of the *Holoptychius*, N., and *Pterichthys* are to be found in the greatest abundance. Beautiful plates of five distinct animals are figured in Dr Anderson's Essay.



"The place in the rock," says this accurate observer, "which these curious relics occupied was towards the base, and immediately under the argillaceous marly beds mentioned above. Externally they have undergone but little change in their form, colour, or scaly covering; being still as perfect in their organic development, even to the minute silken fin, as when they sported in the waters of a distant primeval age. The substance of the body, however, and every trace or vestige of internal organization, have entirely disappeared, and the material of the rock has been substituted in their place,—the enamel of the scales being less soluble than the more calcareous matter of which the bones are composed."

A vein of *greenstone* separates the sandstone now described from the beds which belong to the coal formation, throwing them up to an angle of 26°. The junction is extremely well defined; the sandstones are contorted in every possible form, as well as highly indurated, by the infusion of the volcanic rock. Two thin seams of coal may be observed at this locality. The ironstone and shaly matter occur about a quarter of a mile to the south, where they have assumed a nearly horizontal position. "The galena," says Dr Anderson, "occurs on the farm of Myretown of Blebo, and was noticed so early as the year 1722, when large outliers or masses of ore were found on the surface of the ground. The papers in the possession of the present proprietor, General Bethune, describe these as weighing from ten to twenty-four stones in weight. A vein was opened about two feet thick, but would seem to have been speedily abandoned in consequence of the hardness of the rock, which required to be blasted with gun-powder. Subsequently, and a little to the north, another vein was discovered, (probably a continuation only of the first,) which is described as containing a "rib" of metal of three inches, and gradually increasing to seven inches in thickness. Various attempts were made from time to time to work the mines, but the disturbed and ruptured state of the strata, and frequent intrusion of the trap, prevented the operations from being successfully carried on. The vein bears in a north-east by south-west direction."

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Remains of tumuli may be traced in one or two places, and relics have at different times been discovered, both of Roman origin, and of feudal times, but not of any peculiar interest. There are in the grounds of Kemback, the remains of an old burying-

ground, but there is no trace of its history or of any building connected with it.

*Land-owners, &c.*—The number of heritors is five, of whom the principal is General Alexander Bethune of Blebo, &c.\*

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest registers are those of baptisms and burials, which both commence in the year 1735. That of proclamations begins 1st October 1783. The records appear at one period to have been made irregularly; and there is no account of the burials from 1738 to 1750. The only session book extant commences in the year 1732, and continues with some interruption to April 1775.

### III.—POPULATION.

Years,	1755.	1811.	1821.	1831.	1841.
Males,	.	.	.	282	.
Females,	.	.	.	369	.
Total,	<u>420</u>	<u>625</u>	<u>634</u>	<u>651</u>	<u>780</u>

The following is a table of the baptisms, proclamations, and burials for the five years preceding 1841, extracted from the registers:—

Year,	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	Aver.
Baptisms,	22	15	18	20	22	19
Proclamations,	1	6	9	10	6	6
Burials,	17	26	22	13	13	18
Number of inhabitants residing in villages,					380	
in country,					400	
of inhabited houses, about					160	
of heritors,					5	

All of the heritors reside in the parish, and are possessed of incomes above L.50.

In addition to these, there are fifty-one persons holding feus of various values, as entered in the new valuation roll of the county.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Rent of Land.*—The valued rent of the parish, as it stands in the old roll of 1695, is L.2312, 6s. 8d. Scots. The amount on which the property-tax was assessed in 1815, was L.3441 Sterling, and in the new valuation roll, drawn up by order of the Commissioners of Supply in 1841, the gross annual value of the land is stated at L.3889, 2s. 8d. Sterling.

#### *Agriculture.*—

The number of imperial acres may be estimated at	2200
of which in cultivation or pasture, about	1700
under wood, is	320

\* See Swan's Fife Illustrated, Vol. iii. p 75, for the account of this estate, and the others in the parish.



About 500 acres of the arable land is occupied by the proprietors themselves, and the extent let to tenants is 1480. The leases under which it is held are generally for nineteen years; though some now nearly expired are for ninety-nine years. A proportion of the rents are payable according to the fiars' prices of grain, and the average rent, under recent leases, may be estimated at L.1, 12s. per imperial acre.

Part of the land adjoining the river Eden, and consisting of rich alluvial clay, is exceedingly fertile, and has been known to produce 64 bushels of wheat on a Scotch acre. Of late years, however, the crops of this grain have been very unproductive, partly from the inclemency of the seasons, and partly, it may be supposed, from the gradual exhaustion of the chemical elements in the soil, which are most favourable to its production. One farm, held under a long lease, has for many years been constantly in pasture, some of the inclosures of which were let during the last season for above L.6 per Scotch acre.

A considerable extent of the lands of Blebo were feued by a former proprietor of that estate, and about 100 acres are now held in this way, in lots of from two to fifteen acres, at moderate feu-duties, nearly all of it having been reclaimed from unproductive heath. The number of resident families in possession of these feus is about twenty, and most of them are partly or principally employed in other handicrafts, or as labourers on the adjoining farms.

*Wages.*—The average wages of farm-labourers is, for men, 1s. 8d.; and for women, 8d. per day.

The usual number of horses kept for agricultural purposes is about fifty-four. There are nine thrashing-machines, seven of which are worked by horse-power, one by steam, and one by water.

*Manufactures.*—There are two mills for spinning yarns in the parish, both occupied by Mr David Yool, and both situated on the Kame or Ceres Burn: 1. Yoolfield Mill, built in 1839, driven by a water-wheel of 39 feet diameter, and 10 feet wide, assisted, when the water is scarce, by a steam-engine. There are now employed at it 98 women and girls, earning on an average 5s. per week; 7 wrights, at 12s. 6d.; 10 men, at 12s.; 7 boys, at 4s.; 6 labourers, at 9s.; and 30 hecklers. 2. Blebo mills, further up the stream, worked by a water-wheel and steam-engine of ten-horse power, at which are employed 4 men at an average at 13s. per week; 3 boys, at 4s.; and 37 females, at 10s. 3d.

At Blebo mills, there is also a meal-mill, a barley-mill, and a flax scutching-mill.

At Kemback mill, on the same stream, but further down, and also tenanted by Mr Yool, a wheel of sixteen horse power impels a meal-mill, a saw-mill, and a bone-mill, by which from 500 to 600 tons of bones are ground annually, and about 150 tons of rape-cake.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Stipend and Glebe.*—The stipend is, wheat, 4 bolls, 1 firloft, 2 pecks, 1 lippy; meal, 3 bolls, 3 pecks; bear, 21 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 lippies; oats, 29 bolls, 1 firloft, 3 lippies; and money, L.109, 8s. 9d. The glebe extends to about 5 Scotch acres.

In the year 1446, Robertus de Ferny and Mariota Olifert, his wife, lady of Kemback, granted to Gilbert de Galbrath, rector of the church of Kemback, and to his successors, four acres of the lands of Kemback with three cows' grass, and one horse's grass for ever, to be held on condition of the rector being always bound to say two masses weekly in the said church, for them, their parents, and benefactors, "*purgatorii pœnas demollire, et fidelium animas in paradisi gaudiis collocare.*" The deed and confirmation by the Bishop of St Andrews is witnessed by James, abbot of the monastery of Lundoris; John, archdeacon of St Andrews; Hugo Kennedy, chaplain of St Andrews; John Beatoun, rector of Dalry; and rector of the University of St Andrews; John de Balfour, vicar of Lynlytholck; James Treyle de Malgaske; Thomas de Wemyss de Myrtyn; James Butellere de Rungally; Alexander de Forsyth de Nydy, and others.

*Patronage, &c.*—The teinds and right of patronage belonged to the archbishopric of St Andrews. By the original charter of 1458, founding the old college of St Salvador's, they were appropriated by Bishop Kennedy, the founder, to the licentiatus or second master of that college, who was appointed *ex officio* rector, or parson of the parish, with a pension of L. 10 Scots for a vicar to be presented by the rector. In 1579, the University was remodelled by James VI., when the office of licentiatus was suppressed; but the right to the teinds and patronage of Kemback was reserved to the college; and as the second master had the right of presenting the vicar, the college, which came in place of the second master, continued to present. Since the union of the Colleges of St Salvador's and St Leonard's, in 1747, the Principal and Professors of



the United College have been patrons of the parish, and titulars of the teinds.

The following is a list of the ministers of the parish since the Reformation. The three first in the list were masters of St Salvador's, and *ex officio* ministers of Kemback :

1. Mr William Ramsay was minister in 1566 ; died 1570.
2. Mr James Martin was minister in 1567.
3. Mr David Monypenny in 1578 ; resigned in 1595.
4. Mr George Nairn, admitted 1596, translated to Kennoway 1604.
5. Mr David Monypenny, who resumed the charge 1604, at the desire of the congregation, who petitioned the Presbytery to that effect on Mr Nairn's translation. He was deposed for fornication, October 7, 1617.
6. Dr David Monro, admitted 1618 ; translated to Kilconquhar, 1628.
7. Mr John Barrow, admitted 1628 ; conformed to Presbytery 1638 ; demitted 1648.
8. Mr David Patton, admitted July 11th 1648 ; translated to Kettins, June 19th 1650.
- (Vacant from 1650 to 1656.)
9. Mr John Wardlaw, admitted July 2d 1656 ; deposed 1662.
10. Mr Robert Glassford, admitted 7th September 1644 ; translated to Kilmeny 1667.
11. Mr John Christison, June 30th 1699.
12. Mr George Landells, admitted June 4, 1674 ; translated to Cupar 1682.
13. Mr Alexander Edward, admitted February 22, 1682 ; outed 1689.
- (Vacant from 1689 to 1700.)
14. Mr Alexander Anderson, admitted 1700.
15. Mr William Cunningham, admitted March 1703.
16. Mr Alexander Walker, admitted March 1736 .
17. Dr James Macdonald, the present incumbent, admitted 1781.

It is worthy of remark, that only two inductions have taken place since 1703, a period of 139 years, and only one since 1736 ; Mr Walker having been minister of the parish fifty-five, and the present venerable incumbent the long period of sixty-one years.

The present church was opened for public worship in May 1814, and cost about L. 700. The manse was built in 1801.

The average yearly amount of collections in the church for the last five years is L.17, 3s. 5d.

*Education.*—There is one unendowed school besides the parochial school; the number of scholars at both together averaging from 70 to 80. There is also a girl's school at Kemback mill, partly supported by ladies in the parish.

The parochial teacher has the full legal salary; but the present incumbent, being incapacitated from performing his duties, the heritors at present employ another teacher in his place at a salary of L.14 per annum. He states his annual profit from fees at L. 16; and he has also about L.3 as session-clerk. The common branches of elementary education only are taught, there being but one pupil taking lessons in Latin.

*Poor.*—The number of poor regularly supplied is from 15 to 20. The amount of voluntary assessment is about L. 11, 10s., besides which the session possess a fund bequeathed by one of the family of Blebo, amounting to L. 250.

Collections, L. 17, 3s. 5d.; assessment, L.11, 10s.; interest of fund, L.10—L.38, 13s. 5d.

*February 1843.*

## PARISH OF TORRYBURN.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. THOMAS DOIG, A. M., MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, &c.*—THE parish of Torryburn consists of the united parishes of Torrie and Crombie. Crombie appears to have consisted of the district of the present parish south of the burn of Torrie, and of certain detached lands, distant about seven or eight miles, and now annexed *quoad sacra* to the parish of Saline. In lieu of these, the lands of Inzievar and Oakley, belonging, *quoad civilia*, to the parish of Saline, but cut off by the intervening parish of Carnock, have been annexed, *quoad sacra*, to Torryburn. Torry, the original name of the parish to which these annexations have been made, is said to signify, in Gaelic, the



*king's height* ; while the more modern name of Torryburn may be traced to the circumstance of the parish church being situated by the side of the *burn* of Torrie.

*Situation and Extent.*—The parish, as now constituted, forms the extreme south-west corner of the county of Fife. It is bounded on the west, by the parish of Culross, in the county of Perth ; on the north, by the parish of Carnock ; on the east, by the parishes of Carnock and Dunfermline ; and on the south and south-west, by the Frith of Forth, which separates it from the parishes of Carriden and Bo'ness, in the county of Linlithgow. It is about five miles in length, and from one to two in breadth, comprising an area of five or six square miles. The surface is beautifully varied. The higher grounds command several fine views of the frith and its opposite shore ; and, in the distance, the castle and part of the city of Edinburgh are seen.

*Hydrography.*—Besides the burn of Torrie, there are two small streams, by which the parish is partially bounded, at its eastern and western extremities. A small loch, which at one time existed on the lands of Oakley, is now drained. There are several chalybeate springs in the parish. The tide, at low water, recedes to a considerable distance from the shore. By care and industry not a little land might have been gained from the frith.

*Geology, &c.*—Under this head the following facts have been communicated by Mr Cadell, tacksman of the Torrie colliery : The whole of the parish stands upon the coal measures, forming part of the basin which stretches across Scotland from south-west to north-east. Although the strata are very irregular, being in many places thrown up by the trap and dislocated by slips ; yet in no part of the parish are any of the inferior beds of carboniferous limestone, or old red sandstone, visible ; nor does it appear that any of the superior beds of magnesian limestone, or new red sandstone take on. In the south-west part of the parish, at the shore, the strata crop out to the east at an angle of about 45°, being apparently thrown into this angular position by the trap-hill on which Torrie House is built. About 400 yards east of the burn, which bounds the parish on the west, the strata dip to the south-east at about one in five. This rise increases opposite to the village of Torryburn, when the strata again dip into the east.

The proprietor of Torrie has this year (1839) been at considerable expense in proving the coal-field along the shore ; and, from several borings, the basin between Torrie and Torryburn

has been found to show the following section, taken generally, viz :—

	Fathoms.	Feet.
Shale, with two five-inch bands of ironstone, . . . . .	12	0
Coal, . . . . .	0	2 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Sandstone, shale, and three thin seams of coal, unworkable, . . . . .	35	0
Coal of a fine quality, . . . . .	0	4 <sup>4</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Shale, sandstone, and three thin seams of coal, unworkable, . . . . .	15	0
Coal, . . . . .	0	2 <sup>9</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
Sandstone and shale, . . . . .	15	0

At the north-west corner of the parish, where there is a colliery now at work, the strata are found dipping to the north-west. The general section, as obtained in the engine-pit, is as follows, viz.

	Fathoms.	Feet.
Shale, with thin beds of sandstone, . . . . .	8	0
Coal, mostly wrought out, . . . . .	0	4 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Sandstone and shale, with several small unworkable seams of coal, . . . . .	22	0
Coal (parrot seam), . . . . .	0	3
Sandstone and shale, with several thin unworkable seams of coal, and two bands of ironstone further proved, . . . . .	19	0

Above the strata is in general found a bed of blue stiff clay, full of rounded nodules of coal, whinstone, sandstone, &c. Above this, in some places, is a bed of sand; and, in others, of fine brown clay, suitable for making bricks and tiles.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

There is no record, apparently, of the time when either Torrie or Crombie was first erected into a parish. The earliest notice of the former, which we have seen, is in a list of parishes said to have been drawn up in the reign of King William the Lion, quoted in a recent publication from Sibbald's History of Fife. Crombie appears to have been dependent on the Abbey of Culross. In the "Booke of the Universall Kirk of Scotland," Torrie and Crombie are noticed as separate parishes in the years 1581 and 1586, and it is thought that their union was effected towards the close of the same century. One of the first notices in the session records is an intimation, of date June 21st 1629, that "the session convened at the kirk of Crombie, appointed ane stent for repairing the kirk of Crombie, extending to 30 lb., to be paid by parishioners." But there is nothing in the record to enable us to ascertain whether that church was then, or afterwards, used for public worship.

By the session records, it appears that there was a school in Torryburn in the earlier part of the seventeenth century; for, June 17th 1632, Alexander Rae was "discharged from teaching bairns in the parish of Torrie;" and, April 28th 1633, William



Duddingstone was "received to read in the kirk before sermon, and to teach the bairns to read and write." In 1644, "the school-master was found unfit to teach such a number of bairns as comes to school," and an assistant teacher was in consequence appointed. The elders appear to have gone through the parish, from time to time, "to gather money to pay the master's house-mail and school-house;" and, July 7th, 1644, mention is made of a "bond betwixt schoolmasters and session, subscribed by so many as could wreat, in name of the rest, except by Johne Dalglish." The fees of poor children were paid by the session, that there might be no excuse for absence from school. In illustration of the interest taken by the church at that period in the cause of education, we give the following extract from the record: "March 18th 1649, the schoolmaster being inquired if the bairns attend the school, he complained that manie faythers did withdraw their children, and the names of the bairns' faythers that were absent were given in to the session." They were "ordained to be summoned again the nixt day." And accordingly, "March 25th 1649, compeared the faythers of the bairns that were withdrawn from the school, and promised to send them to the school owre the nixt week without faile." Whenever there was a falling off in school attendance, the elders appear to have visited their several quarters, to "deal" with the parents to send their children to school, and to keep them there as long as possible, instead of sending them away to "the herding." In 1655, there appear to have been four schools in the parish, one of which was in Torry or Newmill, and another in "Crumbietoune." And, about this time, "it was the desire of some that their bairns might be taught the Latin tounge."

While the record proves that great efforts were made by the kirk-session to promote the cause of education, so also to see that family worship was observed, that the Sabbath was sanctified, and that drunkenness, swearing, evil speaking, and lewdness were discouraged. Offenders were fined, and publicly rebuked before the congregation.

In 1643, "the Covenant was read and explained;" and, December 10th 1648, "the Covenant was renewed, and solemnly sworn to by all, and subscryved to by as manie as could writt: the rest were desyred to come in upon Tuesday following, for subscryving the same by themselves, or by some at their desire." About this period, too, so memorable in the history of our fathers, there

appears to have been great anxiety to wait upon religious ordinances. Thus, June 6th 1647, it is noticed, "that the kirk was too little to contain the people of the parish;" and that "hundreds were constrained to ly in the kirkyard in time of sermon, about the doors and windows." An application was in consequence made to the heritors, who enlarged the church accommodation by building an aisle. After the occupation of Scotland by Cromwell, the record exhibits complaints of "disorder," occasioned "by the troubles of the time;" of disorder "by Englishmen," and "by English souldiers." And, October 16th 1653, the minister reports to the session, that there were in the parish "ignorant persons, scandalous livers, persons who had not attended diets of examination, and those who did not profess to keep family worship, in all near to 200 persons."

As illustrative of the spirit of our fathers about this period, the following public collections may be noticed, which were made in the parish between the years 1631 and 1658:

1631, For the distressed Germans,	L.30	0	0	Scots.
1632, For the captives of Dysart and Kirkaldy,	4	0	0	
1643, For the captives of Inverkeithing, &c.	26	13	4	
1647, For the distressed people in Argyle,	133	6	8	
1647, For the bridge of Cramond, and the distressed persons recommended by the General Assembly,	36	0	0	
1651, For prisoners at Newcastle,	49	0	0	
1652, For Lieutenant Jardine,	6	0	0	
1652, For "the desolate toune of Glasgow,"	40	0	0	
1652, For the captives among the Turks,	10	0	0	
1653, For soldiers, prisoners, and others,	26	0	0	
1656, For the town of Edinburgh,	16	0	0	
1656, For bursars,	4	0	0	
1656, For pious uses,	5	6	0	
1657, For "the Grecians, and the toune of Anstruther,"	22	0	0	
1658, For the town of St Andrews,	24	0	0	

Under the Episcopal usurpation, during the reigns of Charles II. and James VII., the discipline appears to have been maintained with considerable strictness. None of the festivals or saints' days seem to have been observed; and the communion was dispensed on a Sabbath, and sometimes on two successive Sabbaths, by appointment of the session. The first Presbyterian minister after the Revolution, Mr Allan Logan, was ordained July 24, 1695. His session consisted of thirteen elders; and discipline continued to be exercised with a very searching strictness. During his incumbency, till he was translated to Culross, in 1717, many curious notices are to be found in the record. Under this head we may notice an oath of purgation, administered, in 1703, to one Curry, who had been accused of adultery; the appearance



before the session, in 1705, of one Dr Sibbald, a physician, who appears to have been a very worthless character; and the examination, in 1704, of one Lillias Adie, accused of witchcraft, who afterwards died in the jail of Dunfermline, and was buried within the flood-mark between the villages of Torryburn and Torrie. Mr Logan's great hobby appears to have been the prosecution of witches; and, April 4, 1709, Helen Kay was rebuked before the congregation for having said that the minister "was daft," when she "heard him speak against the witches."

In 1697, a great mortality prevailed in the parish, the burials that year amounting to 114. It was a time of great scarcity all over the country; and the tradition is, that the people died in consequence of unwholesome food, and of an immoderate use of a particular kind of fish which they caught in the frith. Nothing is remembered of a more modern date that is worthy of notice. Only it may be noticed, that Torryburn appears to have been in its most flourishing state about sixty or seventy years ago. As a place of enterprise it never has recovered from the effects of the failure of the then proprietor of Crombie. The coal and salt works, which had previously been in full operation, were abandoned; and, in so far as a flourishing trade invests a locality with importance and interest, it must now be said of Torryburn, that it has seen better days.

*Chief Land-owners.*—Without reckoning the lands annexed *quoad sacra* to Saline, but including that part of Saline annexed *quoad sacra* to Torryburn, the parish is divided among seven proprietors, whose valued rent is L.5377 $\frac{1}{3}$  Scots, and whose real rental may probably amount to nearly the same sum in Sterling money. The present proprietors, with their valued rent in Scots money, are:—

Andrew Colville of Ochiltree and Crombie,	L.1640 $\frac{3}{4}$
Captain James Erskine Wemyss of Wemyss and Torrie,	1475
Andrew Wellwood of Garvoch and Pitliver,	738
Henry Beveridge of Inzievar,	718
The Heirs of Sir Robert Preston, Bart. of Valleyfield,	414 $\frac{1}{2}$
The Heirs of General Farquharson of Oakley,	335 $\frac{3}{10}$
Miss Erskine of Dunimarle, &c.	56

*Antiquities.*—These are few in number, comprising the ruins of the small church of Crombie, occupying a commanding situation overlooking the frith; and a large stone at a place called the Tolbzies, supposed to have been erected as a memorial of a fight at some remote period.

*Modern Buildings.*—The only edifice of this description worthy

of notice is the House of Torrie, which is finely situated, and has a handsome appearance. A valuable collection of paintings, which once gave to it an interest, fell by bequest, at the death of the late Sir John Erskine, Bart., to the University of Edinburgh.

### III.—POPULATION.

By referring to the average annual number of births and baptisms, the population may be estimated at 1250 in the year 1640; at 1800 in 1670; and at 1550 in 1680. During what may be considered to have been the most flourishing period of the history of the parish, between 1770 and 1780, the population, by a similar reference, may be estimated at from 1800 to 1900 souls. In 1755, the return of the population made to Dr Webster was 1635; and, in 1792, it is stated in the former Statistical Account at 1600.

Table of the population, distinguishing the sexes :

Years.		Males.		Females.		Souls.
1801,	-	580	-	823	-	1403
1811,	-	654	-	807	-	1461
1821,	-	639	-	804	-	1443
1831,	-	612	-	824	-	1436
1836,	-	643	-	851	-	1494

In the enumeration of 1836, seamen belonging to registered vessels are included; a class excluded from the Government enumerations of the four preceding periods. These are 18 in number. The actual increase of population since 1831 has been occasioned by the re-opening of Torrie colliery, and the influx in consequence into the parish of 13 families of colliers, consisting of 65 souls.

Of the population in 1836, residing in villages, that of Torryburn was 655, of Torrie or Newmill, 394; of Crombie Point, 81; and of Crombie, 47.

Average annual number of births and baptisms :

Years.	Aver. annual No.	Years.	Aver. annual No.	Years.	Aver. annual No.
1635-40,	46 $\frac{1}{2}$	1771-80,	92 $\frac{1}{2}$	1811-20,	40 $\frac{1}{10}$
1665-70,	67	1781-90,	64 $\frac{9}{10}$	1821-30,	39 $\frac{1}{2}$
1671-80,	57 $\frac{9}{10}$	1791-1800,	51 $\frac{3}{10}$	1831-35,	33 $\frac{1}{2}$
1763-70,	63 $\frac{3}{8}$	1801-10,	42 $\frac{1}{10}$		

During the last thirty or forty years, the register is not complete; parents not unfrequently neglecting to have the names of their children inserted in it; while, unhappily, there are families who are altogether indifferent about religious ordinances, and whose children in consequence are unbaptized. Including those which have not been inserted in the register, the average annual number



of births during the last seven years may be estimated at 48 or 50.

Average annual number of marriage contracts, including those where the man or where both parties were resident in the parish, but not those where the woman only was resident.

Years.	Aver. annual No.	Years.	Aver. annual No.	Years.	Aver. annual No.
1635-40,	9½	1781-90,	10½	1821-30,	8½
1652-57,	14½	1791-1800,	6½	1831-35,	10½
1763-70,	9½	1801-10,	5½		
1771-80,	12	1811-20,	6½		

Average annual number of burials :

Years.	Aver. annual No.	Years.	Aver. annual No.	Years.	Aver. annual No.
1696-1700,	62½	1741-50	34½	1791-1800,	36½
1701-10,	26½	1751-60,	39½	1801-10,	26½
1711-20,	42½	1761-70,	46½	1811-20,	25½
1721-30,	42½	1771-80,	44½	1821-30,	26½
1731-40,	40½	1781-90,	44½	1831-35,	32

N. B.— In 1697, a year of great scarcity, the number of burials was 114.

State of the population in June 7, 1841 :

	Houses.		Families.	Souls.		Total.
	Uninhab.	Inhab.		Males.	Females.	
Torryburn village,	8	107	152	231	371	602
Torry village,	6	97	107	166	245	411
Crombie Point village,	1	14	16	17	37	54
Country, north part,	1	34	39	82	82	164
Country, south part,	5	40	46	95	109	204
Total,	21	292	360	591	844	1435

Ages of the population :

Age.	*Males.	Females.	Total.	Age.	Males.	Females.	Total.
Under 5,	82	106	188	50 — 55,	20	41	61
From 5 to 10,	82	86	168	55 — 60,	16	21	37
10 — 15,	63	94	157	60 — 65,	20	34	54
15 — 20,	58	79	137	65 — 70,	8	20	28
20 — 25,	54	68	122	70 — 75,	7	12	19
25 — 30,	37	71	108	75 — 80,	1	8	9
30 — 35,	37	42	79	80 — 85,	4	11	15
35 — 40,	28	52	80	85 — 90,	0	1	1
40 — 45,	45	50	95	95,	0	1	1
45 — 50,	29	47	76				
				Total,	591	844	1435

Of the entire population, 1097 were born in the county of Fife, 310 in other parts of Scotland, 25 in England, 1 in Ireland, 1 of English parents abroad, and 1 of foreign parents abroad.

Of the 360 families in the parish, 52 consisted of 1 person in each, 58 of 2, 68, of 3, 45 of 4, 46 of 5, 38 of 6, 25 of 7, 18 of 8, 6 of 9, 1 of 11, 1 of 13, and 2 of 14 persons in each.

# IV.—INDUSTRY.

Years.	Families chiefly employed in		
	Agriculture.	Trade, manu- factures, and handicraft.	All others.
1811,	- 61	- 301	- 4
1821,	- 65	- 284	- 3
1831,	- 44	- 120	- 182

In 1836, the total number of persons of all ages belonging to the agricultural class was 359 ; to other classes, 1135.

In 1831, in the return made to Government, of the male population upwards of twenty years of age, there were, agricultural occupiers of the first class, 15 ; do. of the second class, 5 ; agricultural labourers, 54 ; manufacturers or weavers, 63 ; retail trade and handicraft, 81 ; wholesale, capitalists, clergy, and professional, 7 ; labourers not agricultural, 44 ; all other males upwards of twenty years, 28 ; male servants upwards of twenty years, 3 ; female servants of all ages, 35. In 1831, of the males above twenty years of age employed in retail trade and handicraft occupations there were, carriers and carters 7, slaters 7, bakers 6, carpenters 6, sawyers 6, shoemakers 6, cabinet-makers 5, publicans 5, tailors 5, blacksmiths 4, masons 3, wheelwrights 3, grocers 3, butchers 2, millers 2, plasterers 2, house-painter 1, clock and watchmaker 1, drysalt-er 1, earthenware 1, cattle-doctor 1, maltster 1, shopkeeper 1, flax-dresser 1, wood-merchant 1. The number of persons thus classified in the return to Government in 1831 is much the same now. A few of the weavers are employed in the damask manu-  
 facture, for which Dunfermline has long been celebrated ; but most of them keep by the cotton manufacture for the Glasgow market. This last has long been a poor trade ; but being easily learned, and the workman being his own master, it is generally preferred. The tambouring and sewing of muslin give employment to a considerable number of females. But there is not that briskness in any of these departments which would indicate a flourishing state of trade. The extensive salt and coal works, which at one time contributed to the industry of the parish, were given up in the latter part of the last century. One colliery only now remains, in which about thirty pickmen, and thirty labourers and others, are employed. During the last six years, the working has been confined to a seam of 3 feet, containing in some places 1½ feet of parrot coal of very fine quality, suitable for gas-works. The annual produce may be stated at 2500 tons of parrot coal, and 6000 tons of rough or splint coal, in all 8500 tons, of which two-



thirds are shipped, and one-third sold in the adjacent country. The only other public work in the parish is that of a wood-merchant, whose establishment is extensive and flourishing.

*Rent.*—The rent of land in the parish varies from L. 1 to L. 4 per acre. The average rent may be stated at L.2, 10s. per acre. The number of farms is 11. Several of them may be considered large; and in all of them, we believe, the most approved modes of husbandry are followed.

Like many other small towns on the coast of Fife, Torryburn was more of a seafaring place formerly than now. There are still, however, seven vessels belonging to this parish, registering about 330 tons. There is a small pier both at Crombie Point and at Torrie, but the latter stands much in need of repair.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The nearest market-town is Dunfermline, distant about three miles from the eastern boundary of the parish, and four and one-third from the parish church.

The villages are, Torryburn, Torrie or Newmill, Crombie Point, and Crombie, with a population respectively of 655, 394, 81, and 47.

By means of a private post from Dunfermline, letters and newspapers are regularly received. There are upwards of four miles of excellent turnpike road in the parish; but some of the other roads are in bad condition, and during the winter months, in many places almost impassable. This is a great inconvenience to several families, as it respects their attendance at church; and the evil has recently been aggravated, since the shutting up, by the proprietor of Torrie, of a footpath, which, from time immemorial, had been understood to be a kirk road. A similar road in another part of the parish was shut up several years ago by the then proprietor of Crombie. Along the turnpike road a stage-coach from Kirkaldy, by Dunfermline to Falkirk, communicating with Glasgow by the Forth and Clyde Canal, passes every lawful day; and, by means of a boat at Crombie Point, travellers have access to the steam-vessels that ply on the Forth between Edinburgh and Stirling.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church, rebuilt in 1800, is in good condition, with the exception of one of the gables, which is rent from top to bottom. It is situated at the east end of the village of Torryburn, and is not inconveniently placed for the greater portion of the inhabitants; 1135 of the population being distant from it not more than one mile, and 1289 not more than two

miles. The number of sittings, allowing 18 inches to each, is 502, the occupancy of which was found, in 1836, to be engrossed by a total population of 818. Of the sittings, 214 were formerly let, besides others let in a smuggled way by some of the farmers. But it is believed that few, if any, will be let in future; the people being convinced, since their attention was recently directed to the matter, that the imposition of seat rents is illegal. An end, it is hoped, has thus been put to what the minister regards, and has publicly denounced, as a system of ungodly merchandize. The church is by far too small for the parish.

The stipend awarded by the Court of Teinds in 1815, was 216 bolls, half meal and half barley, besides 6 bolls meal, in lieu of the old glebe of Crombie; L. 1, 13s. 4d. for foggage, and L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. But, when allocated, owing to an apparent want of funds, the amount, including the allowance for the glebe of Crombie, for foggage and for communion elements, was found to be only 91 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck, 3 lippies meal; 85 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck, 3 lippies, barley; and L. 20, 5s. in money. The glebe of Torryburn consists of three acres, and is let at an annual rent of L. 9. The manse was built in 1768, and repaired about thirty years ago. Most of the apartments are small and inconvenient.

There is no Seceding or Dissenting place of worship in the parish. The great body of the people profess to adhere to the Established Church. In 1836, the religious profession of the parishioners, including children with their parents, was as follows:

	Communicants.	Total adherents.
Established Church,	445	1332
Other religious denominations,	73	160
Avowed infidels,	...	2
Total,	518	1494

Of those professing to be connected with other denominations than the Established Church, there were belonging to

	Communicants.	Total adherents.
United Secession,	57	126
Relief,	7	18
Original Burghers,	6	10
Reformed Presbyterians,	2	3
Episcopalians,	1	2
Gallican or French Church,	...	1
	73	160

The sacrament of the Lord's Supper is dispensed twice a-year; the average number of communicants being in winter 340, and in summer 370. There are two Sabbath schools, attended by about 60 children. In the church there are two diets of public wor-



ship all the year round ; and these, for the most part, are remarkably well-attended. We trust that an increasing value is being attached to public worship as a Divine ordinance. But, for a long period, the views, in regard to this, of a considerable part of the population in the west of Fife, appear to have been extremely low. Many seem never to have thought of attending public worship, unless as hearers or spectators on a communion Sabbath. This must have been the case in Torryburn during the earlier part of the last century, when, with a population greater than at present, there were no Dissenters. So, also, it must have been in the adjoining parish of Dunfermline, where, before the Secession took place, the only place of worship was the old parish church, capable of accommodating a congregation of from 1200 to 1400, while the population of that parish was then about 8000.

There are no regularly constituted societies for religious purposes. A few individuals contribute to defray the expenses of a monthly distribution of tracts. The number of copies distributed annually is about 3400. Yearly collections are made in aid of the General Assembly's schemes for promoting the cause of Christ. These in 1839 were, for colonial churches, L. 3; for church extension, L. 3, 2s. ; for education, L. 3, 8s. ; for the India mission, L. 4, 16s. ; for the Jews, L. 5, 4s. ; in all, L. 19, 12s. ; besides L. 14 contributed by individuals to particular exertions in connection with the Church Extension scheme.

*Education.*—Besides the parochial school there are three others. Two of these are partly sewing-schools, taught by females. The instruction in the parochial school consists of English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, and Latin when required. The schoolmaster is qualified, in addition, to give lessons in Greek and French. His salary is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. The fees, with other emoluments, may amount to L. 46. The house provided for him is far from commodious. The school-room, which is merely rented by the heritors, is unworthy of the parish. The number of children attending the several schools in the parish may be about 140. The number of children between five and fifteen years of age, who have been taught to read, is 351 ; and taught to write, 194. The total number attending school, including those who frequent schools in the adjoining parishes, is about 210. There are three males and three females, grown up, who admit that they have never been taught to read. On the whole, the benefits of education do not appear to be so generally appreciated as could be wished ; and by many the school-fees are very irregularly paid.

There is a small parochial library, but not much of a taste for reading.

*Friendly Societies.*—A most useful institution of this description is “the dead-box,” out of which the contributors receive a sum at the death of any member of their families to defray funeral expenses; L.6 at the death of a grown-up person, and L.2 at the death of a child.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—During the years 1835, 1836, and 1837, the average annual amount of collections for the poor at the parish church was L.36, 4s. 9d.; of voluntary assessment by heritors, L.150, 11s. 1d.; and of the sum arising from mortcloths, L.1, 15s. 8d. The extravagance of the fees for mortcloths had the effect, about ten years ago, of leading to the formation of a private mortcloth society, which is very generally countenanced. The average number of paupers on the permanent roll is 33, and the average amount of the sums distributed amongst them annually, L.141, 14s. 1d. The average annual expenditure on occasional paupers is L.3, 7s., and on the education of poor children, L.6. The highest annual rate of relief to paupers on the permanent roll is L.7, 12s., and the lowest, L.2, 12s. Coals and soup are distributed annually, in addition, to the amount of about L.31; and several poor children are educated at the expense of the Hon. Mrs Colville of Ochiltree, the lady of one of the heritors, to whose bounty in articles of clothing also many of the poorer parishioners are indebted. Generally speaking, the reverse of a spirit of reluctance to receive parochial aid is manifested; and, in the villages of Torryburn and Torrie, one family in six receives occasional charity in one shape or another.

*Fairs.*—There is one held annually at the west end of Torryburn village, on the second Wednesday of July. No business is now transacted beyond the sale of confections and crockery. In the evening, there is usually a horse-race.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—Of these, there are not fewer than 14, not to mention another, which, although not within the parish, is within a hundred yards of its western extremity. A year or two ago, the number within the parish was eighteen; and for the diminution which has since taken place, and which, it is hoped, will go on progressively as the holders of licenses die out or remove, we are mainly indebted to the enlightened interference of Mr Beveridge of Inzievar.

*Drawn up in 1841. Revised January 1843.*



## PARISH OF KIRKCALDY.\*

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKCALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN ALEXANDER, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THERE seems to be no good reason for doubting the accuracy of the derivation commonly given of the name. It is said to be compounded of *Cil* or *Kil*, and *Celedei* or *Keledie*, the *Culdees*. Prior to the introduction and establishment of Popery in Scotland, the Culdees, who had erected several religious establishments in Fife and Kinross, had one of their houses, called cells, here; hence the place was called *Kil-celedei*. During the Scoto-Saxon period the name was changed into *Kirkcaledie*, and subsequently it was contracted into *Kirkcaldie* and *Kirkcaldy*.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish was originally large, but is now very small, in consequence of the erection of the adjacent parish of Abbotshall, the greater part of which was disjoined from *Kirkcaldy*. The parish consists of one small farm; a piece of acre-land, which has been divided, from time immemorial, among a number of small proprietors; the burgh acres; and the commonies, with the moss and moor, which at one time belonged to the town. It is  $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, and scarcely 1 in breadth: and is bounded on the south-east, by the Frith of Forth; on the north-east, by the parish of Dysart; on the north-west, by the parishes of Dysart and Auchterderran; and on the south-west, by the parish of Abbotshall.

*Topographical Appearances.*—It rises towards the north, for the most part very gradually, to an elevation of 300 feet above the level of the sea. The sea-beach is level and sandy. The parish embraces about three-fourths of a mile of the sea-coast. A short

\* The former Statistical Account of *Kirkcaldy* by Dr Thomas Fleming is minute and accurate. The writer of this account has freely used it, and he wishes to acknowledge this here, as he will not make more special reference to it in the following pages.

distance inward from the sea the land is nearly level, and then it rises rather abruptly. On this flat ground, along a section of a spacious bay on the north side of the Frith of Forth, the town stands. It is ten miles due north from Edinburgh.

It may be proper to mention, while speaking of the town of Kirkcaldy, that it comprehends much more than the royal burgh, though this be all of it that lies within the parish. When it is viewed as a considerable sea-port, and an important manufacturing town, it must be regarded as comprehending Linktown, in the parish of Abbotshall, West Bridge, in the parish of Kinghorn, and all this is included within the Parliamentary burgh. To this also may be added Pathhead and Gallaton, in the parish of Dysart. These places are all adjoining, and form one town, though they are looked upon as distinct by the inhabitants, more from the divisions of parishes than from any thing else. The town, in this extended sense, has a population of 15,000; and little more than 5000 reside within Kirkcaldy proper.

*Climate.*—The climate is dry and salubrious, and favourable to longevity, of which there are numerous instances. On account of the great and sudden variations in the temperature of the atmosphere during the end of spring and beginning of summer, croup, bronchitis, and other forms of thoracic inflammatory complaints are prevalent.

*Hydrography.*—This parish presents scarcely any thing worthy of notice under this head. The East Burn, a small stream, after receiving one or two nameless tributaries in its course, which does not exceed three miles, falls into the sea at the point where the parishes of Dysart and Kirkcaldy meet on the coast. This rivulet deserves to be mentioned chiefly on account of its romantic and richly wooded banks, which are commonly called the Den. These woods and banks are intersected with walks, to which the proprietor allows the public to have access; and thus the inhabitants have the privilege and advantage of a beautiful and agreeable retreat in the immediate vicinity of the town.

*Minerals.*—The limited extent of this parish, the absence of rocks on its sea coast, and the fact, that, in very few places, the strata make their appearance on the surface, render it scanty in geological phenomena. The general dip of the strata, where their bearings are regular, and have not been deranged by the convulsions which threw up the trap rocks, that intersect this coal-field, and are so troublesome in the working of the coal, is south-



south-east, from a ridge near the northern extremity of the parish. The prevailing strata are sandstone, slate, clay, and till, containing a number of seams of coal, varying in thickness from 9 inches to  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet. Above the coal, which is now being wrought, there is a bed of whinstone 8 fathoms thick. There is only one coal-pit in operation at present. It is 46 fathoms deep. The bed of coal is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  feet in thickness; but the expense of turning out this coal is much increased, in consequence of its being composed of two seams, separated by a stratum of clay 15 inches thick. This, however, only lessens the value of the coal-field to the proprietor, and does not raise the price of coal to the consumer;—for this is prevented by the competition of other coal-works in the neighbourhood.

Considerable quantities of iron ore are also found in this coal-field in globular masses. About thirty years ago, when the iron trade was more profitable than it is just now, this ore was wrought along with the coal, and was sold at 10s. 6d. per ton to the Carron Company. The working of it has been discontinued for many years. The present tacksman of the Dunnikier colliery could find buyers of the iron in England; but the prices offered are not sufficiently remunerating to encourage him to embark in this branch of trade.

*Soil.*—The soil of the plain along the coast, on which the town is built, as may be seen in all the gardens on the south side of the High Street, is exceedingly sandy. To the north of the High Street, where the ground begins to ascend, and all along the back of the town in its immediate vicinity, the soil is dry rich loam, and very productive. On the rising ground farther north, the sub-soil becomes retentive, and the land is cold, wet, and clayey. The part of the parish most distant from the sea is what was formerly the town's common moor; and, though much has been done for it by cultivation and improvements, it still remains comparatively unproductive.

*Zoology.*—Between twenty and thirty years ago, a little insect, whose effects are denominated the American blight, made its appearance here. Ever since that time, it has been very destructive to apple trees in this parish. Once visited by it, they seldom afterwards recover health. Various expedients have been tried to prevent its attacks, and to discover a remedy for the disease it leaves behind it; but all such attempts have hitherto been unsuccessful.

*Botany.*—Interesting as is this district of Fife to botanists, the parish of Kirkealdy may be said to be destitute of botanical riches.

No plants are found in it, except what are common in similar localities. The adjacency of the spot to this parish may justify us in noticing here, that around Ravenscraig Castle, in the parish of Dysart, these two rare plants are found, the sea-fern (*Asplenium marinum*,) and Alexanders (*Smyrnum Olusatrum*.)

The only plantations in the parish are about Dunnikier house, and in the den already mentioned. They are between sixty and seventy years old, and contain various kinds of fir, beech, elm, and oak; but they present nothing remarkable.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

No historical account of this town has ever been published. Nor do the burgh records throw any light on its earlier history. It seems, however, to have been a place of considerable importance at a very remote period. The obscurity of antiquity conceals what accident or causes led the Culdees to plant an establishment here; and the date of these Christians coming to occupy this as one of their stations is unknown. Of the existence of one of their houses here, no reasonable doubt can be entertained. Its suppression, or at least it being brought into subjection to the religious establishment at Dunfermline, under which it subsequently continued for a long time, very probably took place in the earlier part of the twelfth century. David I., before the middle of that century, introduced thirteen English monks from Canterbury, belonging to the order of St Benedict, into the Culdee establishment at Dunfermline: and thus brought it under the dominion of the Pope. Such an innovation awakened the alarm of the Culdees, by threatening their independence with overthrow. To reconcile them to the change, and to divert their attention from the danger of their contemplated overthrow, the king elevated the priory of Dunfermline to the rank of an abbey; and to flatter them still farther, it is said he, at the same time, suppressed the Culdees of Kirkcaldy, or made them subordinate to, and dependent on, the newly erected abbey.

The first authentic notice of the town, except what is vague and general, from which the commencement of its history must be dated, is its erection into a burgh of regality in the year 1334. David II. at this date mortified Kirkcaldy to the abbot of Dunfermline, and his successors. For more than a century, it was held by this monastery, and used in all probability as the principal sea-port of Dunfermline. In 1450, the commendator and convent of Dunfermline, "gave, granted, and disposed to the bailies and community of the burgh of Kirkcaldy, then present, and their



successors, for ever, the burgh, the harbour of the same, and all burgage farms of the said burgh, with the small customs, lie tolls, stallages, with courts and their issues; also common pasture within the muir of Kirkcaldy, and pertinents thereof, as freely in all and by every respect as the burgesses of the burgh of Dunfermline have enjoyed and possessed." Not long after this disposition was granted, the holding of the burgh was changed. From being one of the burghs of the lordship of Dunfermline, it was erected into a free royal burgh, with all the privileges of other royal burghs. The original charter having been lost, the date of the royal burgh's erection is unknown. Charles I. granted a charter of confirmation to Kirkcaldy in 1644, ratifying all its former rights and immunities; and erecting it *de novo*, into a "new free burgh royal," with enlarged powers and privileges. Prior to the granting of this charter, the magistracy consisted of two bailies and a treasurer, but the charter of Charles gave power to choose "a provost, bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer, for administration of justice, and government of the burgh." The provost has also the title of admiral.

*Historical Notices.*—This town suffered severely during the civil war that followed the contest between the English Parliament and Charles I.; and also in the struggle maintained by the Covenanters in Scotland. It appears from a statement in the burgh records, that no less than 94 vessels belonging to this port, of the value of L.53,000 Sterling, were lost at sea, or taken by the enemy, between the beginning of the war and the restoration. The public authorities and inhabitants of Kirkcaldy espoused the cause of the Parliament, and opposed the Royalists.

The cause of the Covenanters also was well supported here. The presbytery records show, that the cause was popular in the district, and that the covenant was very generally subscribed. This parish added a large force to the Covenanters, as may be inferred from the circumstance, that the battle of Kilsyth alone, in 1645, is said to have left 200 widows in the town. The general feeling may be gathered from the session records, in which we find "runawayes from their cullors warnit," and "declaired contumacious." Sums were allowed from the poor's funds "for horses to cary woundit men," and to be given to "woundit men." On the margins of both the presbytery and session records, special notice is taken of the "batell of Kilsyth."

*Maps, &c.*—No map or survey of the town or parish is known to

have existed previous to 1809. A plan of the burgh was drawn that year by Mr Moore of Abbotshall, preparatory to application being made to Parliament for a police bill. This map is still preserved. Another was made by Mr Wood of Edinburgh in 1824, which is also in possession of the Town-Council. Mr John Sang, civil-engineer, Kirkcaldy, executed a plan of the burgh, including the whole of the royalty, in 1840, when the assessment under the new Prison Act was to be levied on the county: one copy of which was deposited with the commissioners of supply, and another with the town-council of Kirkcaldy.\*

*Eminent Characters.*—Henry Balnaves of Halhill, who acted a conspicuous part in the reigns of James V. and his daughter Mary, was the son of poor parents in the town of Kirkcaldy. After attending school at St Andrews, he went to Cologne, and prosecuted his studies. While receiving a liberal education there, he was at the same time instructed in the principles of the Protestant faith. After his return to Scotland he was appointed a Lord of Session in 1538; and had a seat in several Parliaments. He took an active part in forwarding the work of the Reformation, and oftener than once suffered imprisonment for his zeal. He lent valuable assistance, when he was in parliament, to the passing of an act, that the enemies of the reformation violently opposed, for allowing “baith the New Testament and the Auld,” to be translated into the vulgar tongue and read. The sixth General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, appointed him, along with others, in 1563, “to advise the Booke of Discipline (viz. the first Book), diligentlie, consider the contents thereof, noting their judgments in writing, and to report to the nixt General Assemblie of the kirk.”

Mr George Gillespie and his brother Patrick, whose names are intimately associated with the history of the Church of Scotland, during the period immediately subsequent to the second Reformation, were sons of Mr John Gillespie, second minister of the collegiate charge of Kirkcaldy. George was born in 1613, and Patrick in 1617. George was sent to college as the presbytery's bursar, and was supported by contributions from the kirk-sessions, as appears from the following extract from Kirkcaldy session records: November 1629, “The session are content that

\* These two copies were legalised in the following form:

Cupar, 27th October 1840. This is one of the copies of the plan of the boundary of the royal burgh of Kirkcaldy, produced to the general meeting of the commissioners of supply for the county of Fife held here this day, along with the agreement betwixt the magistrates of Kirkcaldy and a committee of the commissioners of supply, fixing the boundaries of the said burgh, and which is referred to in their minute of this date.

(Signed) G. Anderson, Provost. O. Tyndall Bruce, Convener of the County.



Mr George Gillespie shall have as much money of our session for his interteynment, as Dysart gives, viz. 20 merks, being our presbytery's bursar." He was ordained to be minister of Wemyss, on the "supplication" of the kirk and parish, and in opposition to the wish and order of the Archbishop of St Andrews. Mr Robert Douglas, minister of Kirkcaldy, who will be noticed afterwards, presided at the ordination. Mr Gillespie was soon after translated to Edinburgh; and in 1643, he was nominated and appointed by the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, to be one of the Scotch Commissioners to the Westminster Assembly of Divines. He was one of its youngest members, and his abilities, acuteness, knowledge, and skill in debate, often astonished the assembly and confounded his adversaries. He is described by Principal Baillie as "the verie learned and acute Mr Gillespie, a singular ornament of our church, than whom no one in the whole assembly (Westminster,) speaks to better purpose." On one occasion, as is related, after Selden, with all his talents and erudition, had maintained, in an elaborate speech, the supremacy of the civil magistrate in the government of the church, Baillie, feeling strongly the necessity of the arguments advanced being answered, said to Gillespie, "Get up, George, and defend the kirk of your fathers." He replied with so much learning and ability, that Selden, feeling the overpowering force of Gillespie's strong arguments and conclusive reasoning, is reported to have whispered to a friend beside him, "that boy has, in the course of one speech, overturned the labours of my past years." George Gillespie wrote *Miscellanies*, and published also an acute and able work, entitled "*Aaron's Rod Blossoming*," for which he is most justly celebrated. He was chosen moderator of the General Assembly in 1648, and died at Kirkcaldy in the end of the same year. A monument was erected to his memory, which, as an inscription on a plain tablet, that still stands, informs us, was thrown down through the "malign influence of Archbishop Sharp." It was re-erected in 1745, by his grandson, the Rev. George Gillespie, minister of Strathmiglo. The tablet is still to be seen in the south-east porch of the present church.

Mr Patrick Gillespie, besides being a native of Kirkcaldy, was for some time minister of the parish. After the death of Charles I. he favoured the side of the Commonwealth, and was appointed Principal of the University of Glasgow. He had to encounter much opposition and many difficulties, before he could be installed into the office. At the Restoration he was ejected.

Mr Robert Douglas, another of the five commissioners appointed by the General Assembly to repair to the Westminster Assembly, was for some years one of the ministers of this parish. It does not appear that he ever attended at Westminster. He became one of the ministers of Edinburgh, was moderator of the General Assembly, and preached at the coronation of Charles II., which took place at Scone in 1651.

Three individuals were born in this town in the earlier part of last century, who attended the burgh school at the same time, and contracted a friendship there that continued through life; and each of them attained a certain degree of eminence in the station he occupied, and the duties he undertook. We refer to James Oswald, Esq., Dr John Drysdale, and Dr Adam Smith.

Mr Oswald of Dunnikier represented the county of Fife in one Parliament, and the Kirkcaldy district of burghs in three, between 1741 and 1768. During his parliamentary career, by attention to his duties, and his talent for business, he recommended himself to the ministry of the day, and gained their confidence. He thus secured for himself some of the honours of the State, and for his friends, as well as himself, the advantages of office. He was a privy-counsellor, and at different times he held the offices of a Commissioner of Trade, a Lord of the Treasury, and Vice-Treasurer of Ireland.

Dr Drysdale, one of the ministers of Edinburgh, was clerk to the General Assembly, and was twice chosen moderator. He obtained his presentation to a church in the city through the influence of his friend and school companion, Mr Oswald. It may here be noticed, that, previous to the appointment of Dr Drysdale, the magistrates and town-council had entrusted the election of the city ministers to the general kirk-session. But in his case the council commenced to take the choice into their own hands, "for good reasons," according to the statement of the Doctor's biographer and son-in-law.

The last, but by far the greatest and most celebrated of the three, was Dr Adam Smith, the author of the *Inquiry into the Nature and Causes of the Wealth of Nations*,—a work which laid down principles and unfolded views of political science, that startled men by their novelty when they were first propounded, but whose soundness in general, whose enlightened and philosophical character, have long been admitted and applauded by political economists. He was also the author of a work entitled the *Theory of*



Moral Sentiments; but comparatively little of his well-merited and widely extended fame has arisen from this treatise. He was born here in 1723. After he left school, he was absent from the town for many years, following his literary pursuits, and discharging his professional duties in the chair of Moral Philosophy, which he for a time occupied in the University of Glasgow. But he returned again to Kirkcaldy, and resided here while he was composing his celebrated work. He died in 1789. It seems strange that no monument to his memory has ever been erected in Kirkcaldy. This want appears to indicate a prevailing insensibility to the high honour conferred on the town, by its being the birth-place and long the residence of a man of such universal celebrity.

*Land-owners.*—James Townsend Oswald, Esq. of Dunnikier, is proprietor of seven-eighths of the landward part of the parish. The other eighth is much subdivided.

*Parochial Registers.*—Five classes of registers are preserved, viz. minutes of session, registers of proclamations and marriages, of births and baptisms, of deaths and burials, and accounts of the collections and disbursements for the poor. The first and the last of these are nearly entire, and in a good state of preservation; the other three are much mutilated. The oldest volume of the session records commences with January 1614, and the same volume contains, besides the minutes of session, a register of baptisms and marriages, commencing with the same date. The minutes of session from 1645 to 1663 are wanting. In consequence of leaves being torn away at the beginning of a volume, the minutes for the year 1632 are lost. With these exceptions, the minutes from 1614 are complete and well kept. There are duplicates for considerable periods, the scroll copy of the minutes having been preserved.

*Antiquities.*—Various relics, such as sculptured arms and inscriptions, furnish grounds for supposing that a religious house must at one time have stood on the north side of the High Street. Sepulchral remains also have been found in this locality. Stone coffins, and large quantities of human bones have been discovered in different places, by workmen digging for foundations. This town, like many others in ancient times, had gates. They were called the east and west ports. The places where they stood still retain the names. These ports or gates, and the cross which stood at the market-place, were taken down early in the last century, of which notice is taken in the minutes of the town-council. Nothing like a ruin is found in the parish.

*Modern Buildings.*—Besides the parish church, which will be noticed more particularly elsewhere, we may mention here, a new and elegant church which stands close upon the sea, on the High Street, and was erected last year. It cost nearly L.2000, and is an ornament to the eastern part of the town.

The town-house and jail form one building, and it is situated near the middle of the town. It is a small, but very neat and handsome building, in the Saxon Gothic style, and cost L.5000. The town-hall or council-room, in which the courts and meetings of the public bodies of the town are held, is spacious and well-finished. It has lately been furnished with a portrait of Walter Fergus, Esq. of Strathore, copied by Colvin Smith, Esq. from an original painting by Raeburn. A number of gentlemen in the town presented it to the council, to be hung up in the hall, as a memorial of Mr Fergus's connection for many years with the advancement and prosperity of the trade and public affairs of the burgh.

The town is chiefly indebted for recent and extensive architectural improvements to the banks. The Bank of Scotland, the Commercial Bank, the National Bank of Scotland, and the Glasgow and Ship Bank have all branches here. They have all built large and elegant offices, and houses for the agents, on the High Street. Besides the ornament of the bank buildings themselves to the street, it may be remarked, that they have improved the style of building around, and thus the aspect of the town has been greatly changed of late years.

In the parish there is Dunnikier House, the seat of James Townsend Oswald, Esq., and in the town, or its immediate neighbourhood, there are three villas meriting notice, viz. that of John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore; Balsusney, the property of Colonel Ferguson of Raith; and St Brice-dale, the property of William Stark Dougall, Esq. of Scotsraig.

### III.—POPULATION.

No traces remain of any census of this parish having been taken prior to 1755; but the parochial registers furnish data upon which we may approximate at least to the amount of the population at a much earlier date. The births, annually registered, on an average during the ten years commencing with 1614 were 115. This number is much larger than the register has annually received for many years past. The practice of registration was more general then, we apprehend, than it is at present; for the injury done to the interests of children by the inattention of pa-



rents to this duty is matter for regret. If we suppose the population to have been as 35 to 1 of the births, it must have been at this period 4025. Its rapid increase after this date may be inferred from the facts, that the church required to be enlarged in 1643, and in 1650 Abbotshall was disjoined from Kirkcaldy, and a new church was erected. From 1640 to 1650, the average of births was 174, making the population 6090. This, it will be observed, included the present parish of Abbotshall, the population of which, together with that of Kirkcaldy, is at present about 10,000. This gives an idea of the comparative size and importance of this parish, at dates two centuries distant. The trade of the town was nearly annihilated, and the number of its inhabitants was greatly reduced during the forty years that intervened between the death of Charles I. and the Revolution. The population has been gradually increasing for a century past.

Population in 1755,	2296
1795,	2673
1801,	3248
1811,	3747
1821,	4452
1831,	5034

The following abstract of the census taken on the 7th June 1841, in order to make a return to Parliament, will serve to exhibit the state of the population at present. The return contained the number of persons who slept in the parish on the night of the 6th June.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
In the East Port parish ( <i>quoad sacra</i> ),	912	1065	1977
In the rest of the old parish within the royal burgh,	1292	1476	2768
Within the royal burgh,	2204	2541	4745
In part of the parliamentary burgh outside the royal burgh, and within the parish,	149	216	365
Landward part of the parish beyond the parliamentary boundary of the burgh,	64	61	125
On shipboard in the harbour,	12	2	14
In the jail,	21	5	26
In the whole parish,	2450	2825	5275
Temporarily absent, and not included in the above returns,	{ From royal burgh,	sailors,	65
		other males,	51
	{ From rest of parish,	females,	64
		sailors,	3
		other males,	2
		females,	3
Total,			188
Temporarily resident, and included in the above return,	{ within royal burgh,	males,	34
		females,	37
	{ in rest of the parish,	males,	2
Total,			73

At the time of taking the census there was no apparent cause for any unusual influx or decrease in the population of this parish. Very few have emigrated of late years from this place.

Number of families in the parish,	1057
Houses, or parts of houses usually occupied by one family that are empty,	87
Houses building,	5
No register of deaths is kept; but the average number of burials annually in the church-yard during the last ten years,	82½

This must be rather under than above the number of deaths in the parish.

No noble family has a residence within the parish, and very few others, except annuitants, that live upon their fortunes independently of business. There are only two landed proprietors whose yearly incomes from their land within the parish exceed L.100, viz. James Townsend Oswald, Esq. of Dunnikier, and John Fergus, Esq. of Strathore. The property of Mr Fergus, however, lies chiefly in adjoining parishes.

A spirit of enterprise, directed and regulated by that prudent caution which naturally accompanies the possession and employment of real capital in business, pervades this manufacturing and commercial community, and prevents the town from being visited with those sudden and ruinous convulsions, which the rashness of mere speculators, whom injurious facilities of obtaining credit raise up and sustain for a time, too frequently brings upon other trading districts. The habits and conduct of the merchants and manufacturers, who are commonly capitalists to a greater extent than is general throughout the country, in the management of their business, and the nature of the trade itself, give a steadiness to the various branches of industry, and exercise a very salutary influence on the community generally.

The demoralizing practice of smuggling, chiefly from Holland, prevailed here at one time to a great extent. It has now almost entirely disappeared. Of late years, the officers have never detected smuggling, except, and this very seldom, in the case of small craft from France, which sometimes bring along with their cargoes of fruit, larger quantities of brandy than the crew may be thought to require as sea-store.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This parish contains 1050 imperial acres, of which 160 acres are planted. With this exception, all of it is under cultivation; but, from its small extent, it affords little scope for remarks



under this head. The land near the town, from its superior quality, from facilities for obtaining manure, and from the ready market found for produce, especially in the early part of the season, brings a rent varying from L.4, 10s. to L.6, 6s. per acre. The land becomes less valuable in the remoter part of the parish, not only from locality, but also from inferiority of soil, and its rent is from L.2 to L.3 per acre. The average rent per acre of the whole parish may be stated at L.3, 10s.

*Mines.*—One coal-pit is at present in operation. Forty (*pick-men*) colliers are employed in it, besides labourers, and young persons to draw the coals below ground.

*Manufactures.*—The capital of the burgesses seems at one time to have been chiefly employed in shipping. This interest received a shock, during the civil war in the reign of Charles I., which affected the prosperity of the town for a century and a half. After the shipping interests declined, and were destroyed, manufactures were introduced. With the increase and prosperity of manufactures, the shipping of the port has been revived, and the town, from the union of the shipping and manufacturing interests, now numbers among its inhabitants not a few, who are entitled to the honourable appellation of British merchants, and occupy no mean place among them, whether we regard the capital they employ, the spirit of enterprise they manifest, or the extent of their business.

The principal trade of the town is the manufacture of various descriptions of linen, with the collateral branches of flax-spinning, bleaching, and machine-making. This trade was probably introduced from Holland and Flanders about the time of the Revolution, or early in the last century. It was long very limited. It made little progress till after the middle of the last century, as the following facts demonstrate. In 1733, no more than 177,740 yards of linen were manufactured in this district, including Abbotshall, Dysart, Leslie, &c. It had increased in 1743 to 316,550 yards, the value of which was L.11,000. The infancy of the trade, the want of facilities for extending it, and the advancement it made during these ten years, may be seen in the anxiety and care manifested by the authorities to afford it all possible encouragement. In 1739, “the town-council, considering the great benefit the town may receive by an annual market for linen-cloth and other goods, they appoint the same to be held on the first Wednesday of July, and to be custom-free for three years.” In the same year, “the council, considering how much it will be for the

benefit of the town and country that a heckler of lint be established, they, therefore, unanimously resolve to make application to the trustees that a heckler be settled here with such a salary, and under such regulations, as the trustees judge proper." About the same time advantages were held out to bleachers, and encouragement was given them to settle in the neighbourhood. The goods manufactured at this time consisted chiefly of linen checks of inferior quality, which were commonly sold to Glasgow merchants for exportation; and linen handkerchiefs, checks, and a coarse description of ticks not now manufactured; all for the home trade. The goods were conveyed by the manufacturers on horseback to the various towns in Scotland, and were mostly sold at fairs.

Towards the end of the last century, a great stimulus was given to the linen trade of Kirkcaldy by the judgment and energy of Mr James Fergus,—a name justly associated with the extension and prosperity of the trade of the town. He set himself to produce ticking for the home-trade in England. After he had discovered the tweel, and had provided materials for making this fabric of the first quality, he was unable to find weavers who could give the cloth the requisite stiffness and smoothness. The difficulty was at last overcome by a weaver discovering the effect of what is still denominated "the open stroke." The effect of this stroke in the weaving upon the cloth is, in the language of a workman, to make it as smooth as a "buik leaf." This opened up a new trade, and ticking is still the staple article in the manufactures of Kirkcaldy. Mixed cotton and linen-checks were made for the same market; they were produced in large quantities, and continued to be sold with profit till they were superseded by the cheaper and more showy article of cotton. Besides ticks, there are now manufactured in the town, drills, dowlas, sheetings, ducks, and sail-cloth.

It was difficult at one time for manufacturers to extend their business, in consequence of being obliged to provide houses for their weavers. Their trade was proportionate to the number of weavers they could accommodate. This practice is not yet altogether done away, but weavers now generally find houses for themselves, and seek after manufacturers who are willing to employ them. Females began to weave here between forty and fifty years ago: and they now form a considerable proportion of the number employed.

The trade is carried on chiefly by eight manufacturing houses



or establishments. Besides these, there are a few individuals who occasionally make webs. The manufacturers employ 1100 weavers.\* Of this number 113 work in two factories, erected for the manufacture of canvas. This branch of trade was introduced in 1811; and the manufacturers of sail-cloth here generally obtain a share of government contracts for the navy. Only 119 weavers, exclusive of the factory workmen, are accommodated with looms within the parish. Accordingly, many weavers in the adjoining parishes and surrounding villages, are employed by the manufacturers of Kirkcaldy. The average earning of weavers is 6s. 6d. per week;† and the price of weaving is from one-fifth to two-ninths‡ of the value of the goods when they are ready for the market. The gross value of the linens annually manufactured within the burgh may be estimated at L.80,000. Of the whole manufactures in the town, in the extended sense already explained, including the Links and Pathhead, two-fifths are said to be produced within the burgh; so that the value of the various de-

\* The writer wishes to acknowledge the kindness of all the manufacturers in answering his inquiries, furnishing him with information, and affording him data and facilities for ascertaining the number of weavers employed on an average of years; the weekly wages of weavers, and the proportion which expense of weaving bears to the cost of the goods.

† Out of this sum the weaver has to pay the winding of his weft, and all other expenses. A very inadequate pittance is left for his subsistence.

Statement of weekly wages (after allowing for necessary deductions) agreed upon at a meeting of manufacturers and weavers, held in the town-hall Kirkcaldy, August 8th 1838.

#### Linen Ticks.

Stout men at the finest fabrics, (42 and 45 porter,)	L. 0	8	3
Do. Second class, (36 and 40 do.)	0	7	9
Older men and boys, (28 and 34 do.)	0	5	9
Making an average of	0	7	3

#### Fine Sheetings.

Stout men at finest fabrics, (40 porter $\frac{1}{2}$ and upwards)	0	6	6
Older men and women, (36 do. $\frac{1}{4}$ do.)	0	5	4
Making an average of	0	5	11

#### Dowlas.

Men and young women, 10 <sup>00</sup> and 13 <sup>00</sup> $\frac{1}{4}$	0	6	6
Lads and women, 34 and 45, porter, 30 inches,	0	4	6
Boys and girls, apprentices, 26 and 32 porter 25 inches,	0	3	0

#### Sail-Cloth.

Heavy work (in factories) stout men,	0	9	3
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Reports from Assistant Commissions Hand-Loom Weavers.

Since the date of this report weavers' wages have been reduced 10 per cent.

‡ This proportion has been ascertained by taking from the books of two manufacturers a number of webs given out to different weavers in succession, and may therefore be regarded as a fair average of their business. The gross value of the one number, which are all ticks, is L. 148, 6d.; the price of weaving, L. 43, 6s. 6d. The value of the other number, composed of ticking and dowlas, is L. 123, 19s. 6 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; the price of weaving, L. 29, 13s. 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. The expense of weaving fine ticks is nearly one-third of their cost; sheetings, one-fourth; dowlas, one-fifth; coarser fabrics, one-sixth; and the best sail-cloth, one-eighth. Nothing is here allowed for the manufacturer's profit.

scriptions of linen goods annually manufactured in the town may be reckoned at not less than L. 200,000. Besides the home trade in England and Scotland, these linens find markets in Canada, the United States, South America, the West Indies, and Australia.

The manufactures have created an extensive trade in bleaching and dyeing. Some manufacturers dye their own yarns, others employ public dyers. There are only two bleachfields in the parish, one of them is doing very little business; but there are other five in different parts of the county, belonging to merchants and manufacturers in the burgh. The yearly receipts for bleaching yarns at these seven bleachfields amount to fully L. 30,000.

Previous to the introduction of mill-spun yarn, manufacturers got their flax dressed in the town, and sent it to agents throughout the country, to be given out to women to be spun. Inferior yarns were imported in large quantities from Germany and Prussia. Hand-spun yarns were also brought from Ireland, and parcels were occasionally procured from the north of Scotland. The difficulty of obtaining supplies of yarn was so great, that orders for goods had often to be refused. Yarns continued to be imported till within the last ten years.

Cotton spinning was carried on here till about 1805. It was on a very limited scale however, as may be inferred from the fact, that neither steam nor water power was ever applied to it.

Flax-spinning, by machinery, was introduced into this neighbourhood from Darlington about 1793. At first the frames were small, and were driven by the hand. In 1807, a steam-engine of six horse-power was applied to flax-spinning. The price of mill-spinning after its introduction was from 1s. to 2s. per spyndle; at present it is not more than 3d. to 5d., and the price of a spyndle of yarn used in the common manufacture of the district, is from 1s. 6d. to 2s.. At present a girl will attend fifty spindles, and will produce 25 spyndles of yarn per day. About forty years ago a girl attended 24 spindles, and produced seven spyndles per day. Mills are now erected in Kirkcaldy or the neighbourhood, belonging to merchants and manufacturers within the burgh, which contain 13000 spindles, the cost of erecting which must have been L. 90,000, and they will produce 6000 spyndles of yarn per day. Besides supplying the manufacturers in the district, the spinners now export large quantities of linen yarns to France. Notwithstanding the difficulties interposed by the additional import duties on linen yarns lately imposed by the French government, the trade



with France is still carried on. The yarns annually exported for the previous two years, from Kirkcaldy, may be estimated at about 700 tons, the value of which will be upwards of L.60,000.

The progress and prosperity of flax-spinning called for engineers and machine-makers, consequently a large and important branch of this trade has recently sprung up. There are in the parish three works, engaged chiefly in making steam-engines, and flax-spinning machines, in executing mill-wright work, and in founding iron and brass. In these three works 200 men, at an average wage of 15s. per week, are employed. The mills in the district have not furnished sufficient employment for these establishments, especially during the depression of late years; but extensive orders have been executed in them for Ireland, the continent of Europe, and the British colonies. The capital invested in these works will amount to L.21,000; and steam-engines, equal to twenty horses power, are constantly employed in them.

*Navigation.*—The port of Kirkcaldy, including the sub-port of Anstruther, extends from Aberdour, in the Frith of Forth, to Guard Bridge, in the upper part of St Andrews Bay, being about fifty-two miles of coast. The registered shipping consists of 160 vessels, with a tonnage of 12,077. There belong to the head port 91 vessels—8911 of tonnage. Two smacks ply regularly between London and Kirkcaldy; and there are regular traders from Kirkcaldy to Leith and Glasgow. Two vessels are engaged in whale-fishing; the rest in trading to North and South America, the Mediterranean, France, the Baltic, and occasionally beyond the Cape of Good Hope. The foreign ships which usually trade to this port are Norwegian, Danish, Hanseatic, Hanoverian, Prussian. On an average of years there have been 92 vessels from foreign parts. The principal articles of import are flax and timber; of export, coals and linen yarns. Nearly thirty years ago vessels began to sail from Kirkcaldy to the whale-fishing in Davis' Straits. For a number of years this trade increased, and was very profitable. In 1828, nine vessels belonging to this port, with a tonnage of 3008, were engaged in this fishing. A few prosperous years succeeded, and large profits were realized. In 1833, the Kirkcaldy ships brought home 900 tons of oil, and 60 tons of bone, the value of which was not less than L.30,000. The fishing trade has declined since 1835; and, but for the partial success of last year, the fishing would very probably have been this year entirely abandoned.

*Agricultural Society.*—The only association in the parish pro-

fessedly for encouraging or improving any branch of industry, is an Agricultural Society. It meets twice a year for competition among its members in seeds, crops, and stock; and it might be very advantageous to farming interests, if the proprietors in the neighbourhood were more generally to give its meetings the support and countenance, by premiums and attendance, which they justly deserve.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Markets.*—Kirkcaldy is the market-town, not of the parish only, but of an extensive district. Retail dealers in the surrounding towns and villages are supplied with goods by Kirkcaldy merchants. This creates business for carriers, who frequent the town chiefly on Tuesdays and Fridays, and cause considerable bustle on the streets. A corn-market is held on Saturday. It was at one time only a sample market, and most of the buyers came from Leith. After the sales, the grain was shipped at the ports along the coast most convenient for sellers. The town-council erected a stock-market, and opened it for business in 1827. Not only is the grain grown in the neighbourhood mostly sold in this market, but large quantities are brought to it from within a circuit of fourteen or sixteen miles. The attendance of merchants belonging to the burgh, and buyers from other places, is numerous; and prices are generally a shade higher here than in any other market in Fife. The market was unpopular at first, and not a third part of the grain raised in the district was brought to it for some years after it was opened. When the fact came to be known that better prices were obtained when grain was sold in stock than when sold by sample, the prejudices of the sellers were removed, grain was brought from more distant places, and the quantity offered weekly for sale increased, so that this has now become the leading corn market in the county. About 25,000 quarters of grain are annually sold in the Kirkcaldy stock market; and 10,000 quarters more are annually sold in the market by sample. The success of this market has operated favourably on other branches of business, by augmenting the number of weekly visitors, and adding not a little to the circulation of money in the town. In this as in other stock markets, all sales are for ready money, and the effect of this upon the retail trade in the town is beneficial. The market-dues are  $1\frac{1}{2}$ d. per quarter, and no shore-dues are charged on market grain, if it be shipped within fourteen days after it is sold.

Few places in Scotland have a better flesh market. Besides furnishing the town and neighbourhood with a regular supply of



superior butcher-meat, the fleshers have been in the practice for some years of sending large quantities of meat, of all descriptions, to the London and Glasgow markets. No regular fishers are resident here. The town is supplied with fish from Buckhaven and other villages on the south coast of Fife. The fish is commonly carried by land, though boats occasionally expose fish for sale on the beach; but the vicinity of Edinburgh has a tendency to keep up the price of this article of food in Kirkcaldy.

There are a number of large and handsome shops in the town, in some of which there is carried on an extensive wholesale and retail trade. In this respect a great change has taken place within the last fifty years. It was not uncommon in the end of last century for grocers, drapers, and other merchants from Edinburgh and Leith to make regular calls on families here for orders, and many families were supplied with goods in this way. About the same time oatmeal was regularly imported into the parish for consumption from Mid-Lothian, whereas now great quantities of grain are constantly exported for the Edinburgh market.

*Burgh.*—The town-council consists of 21 members, who are elected by a constituency of 250,—the number of parliamentary voters within the ancient royalty. The council elect from their own number a provost and admiral, two bailies, a dean of guild, and a treasurer, on whom the management of the municipal affairs in a great measure depend. The burghs of Kirkcaldy, Dysart, Kinghorn, and Burntisland return a member to Parliament.

The town has no police; but the magistrates, the convener of the incorporated trades, and sixteen inhabitants, chosen by proprietors and tenants, being possessors of heritable subjects, within the burgh, of the yearly rent or value of eight pounds, are constituted, by Act of Parliament, a board of trustees, “for widening, paving, lighting, cleansing, and otherwise improving and keeping in repair the streets, lanes, and passages of the said royal burgh,” “and for bringing water into the same;” and they are empowered to levy for these purposes an assessment, not exceeding five per cent. on the rental. This assessment realizes at present upwards of L.500, and enables the trustees to light the streets with gas, to do something to keep them clean, and to supply the town with water, brought from a distance, and carried through the streets in pipes.

*Harbour.*—“The harbour of Kirkcaldy, though the property of the town, is under the management of Parliamentary Commis-

sioners, chosen in terms of a statute passed in 1829. The commissioners are, the provost, two bailies, dean of guild, and treasurer of the burgh, and the convener of the seven incorporated trades; three commissioners chosen by the Prime Gilt Society, which is composed of ship-owners and ship-masters; three chosen by the merchant traffickers; and two chosen by the county of Fife.\* The revenue of the harbour belongs to the town, and the trustees have no funds, except such sums as may be granted to them by the town-council for the use of the harbour. It has been improved and extended at various times; but, being accessible by heavily laden vessels only at spring-tides, it is exceedingly inconvenient and disadvantageous for merchants, whose profits now depend so much on quickness of dispatch. It is also unsafe and incommodious for vessels. The want of a good harbour here has long been felt and complained of; and this seems to have an adverse influence on the increase of the trade of the town. Attempts are now making to supply this want. About a month ago, the town-council resolved to improve the harbour by extending the east pier, according to a plan furnished by James Leslie, Esq. civil-engineer, Dundee. Contractors have been advertised for, and the work is expected to proceed this year. It will cost L.10,000. This, however, is only a part of the proposed improvement and extension. The completion of the plan is supposed to require from L.30,000 to L.40,000; but the council have wisely determined to proceed according to their pecuniary means, and not all at once to overburden the town with debt. The revenue of the harbour is the chief income of the town; and this seems to impose on the council an obligation to provide as good accommodation as possible for vessels that frequent the harbour. The shore-dues have increased very rapidly of late years. The tacksman of the shore-dues complained to the council, in 1744, of the loss he was sustaining by his lease. For the ease and encouragement of the tacksman, "the council doe agree to set him the shoar-dues for this current year at four pounds Sterling, and recommend to the clerk to get him to enact therefore with a sufficient cautioner."

In 1791 the shore-dues were L.135; in 1811, a little above L.300; in 1823, let at L.625. In 1825, the council took the collection of them into their own hands; and in 1827 they amounted to L.1191; and in 1842, including the commuted anchorage of steam-boats, and exclusive of the charges of collecting, they amounted to L.1715.

\* Report from Commissioners on Municipal Corporations in Scotland.



*Revenue.*—The funds of this burgh have long been managed with great economy. The honour of correcting abuses in this department of the town-council's administration was not reserved for the operation of the Municipal Reform Act. The debt of the town is now nearly liquidated,—a state of affairs found in few Scottish burghs, and this is at once a practical testimony of the judicious management of the public functionaries, and of the town's prosperity. At the Revolution, the town had a debt of 60,000 merks, or L.3333 Sterling. It seems never to have been liquidated. In 1791, it was L.2430; in 1832, L.7649. At the balance in October last, it was only L.775, 6s. 2d. The income of the town, in 1788, was L.284, 11s. 11d.\* The revenue last year was L.2312, 1s. 6d. The town has no landed property. The commonities, consisting of 487 acres, at one time belonged to the town; but these lands were all feued out in 1723 and 1750. Their full value at the time seems to have been obtained for them; and the grassum paid for them, as well as the price of redeeming the feu-duty, appears to have been laid out in repairing the harbour, for the “pier met with a disaster be and through the late violent storme, that it is dung through and through.” This was one of the council's reasons for disposing of their lands, and the investment of the price in the harbour is perhaps better for the town than if the lands had still been retained. The revenue of the burgh arises from shore-dues, feu-duties, petty customs, the market-place, warehouses, &c.

*Means of Communication.*—The town has a post-office, and the letters are delivered twice a-day. Daily coaches either start from the town, or pass through it, to Aberdeen, Dundee, Perth, St Andrews, and Glasgow. A steam-boat constantly plies the ferry between Newhaven and Kirkcaldy. During the summer, it makes eight passages, affording four opportunities of crossing from each side; during the winter months, there are only six passages. A railway is, at present, projected from Lochgelly colliery to the town and harbour of Kirkcaldy, a distance of eight miles; and notices have been served of application being to be made to the first session of Parliament for a bill giving power to the shareholders to carry this railway through.

The collector of excise for Fife and Kinross has his office in Kirkcaldy. The revenue realized from the excise-duties within the bounds of this collection amounted last year to L.167,420. In 1819, it was L.95,700. This increase is chiefly owing to the

\* From a Return to the House of Commons in 1789.

duty on spirits sent to England being now paid in Scotland, whereas, prior to 1826, this duty was paid in England. The increase would have been L. 40,000 more, had not the duties on beer, candles, tiles, leather, and salt been repealed since 1819.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church stands upon the rising ground to the north of the High Street, near the middle of the town,—a convenient situation for the population. It was erected in 1807. It is large and handsome, and Gothic in its style. It is oblong, with the pulpit at the end of it, and contains 1500 sittings. The fitting up and finish of its interior are chaste, without any superfluity of ornament ; and it has an air of elegance superior to what is commonly met with in churches in Scotland. The building, from its style and elevated situation, would be an ornament to the town, were its architectural effect not destroyed by part of an old tower being attached to the west end of it, which is not only in itself devoid of beauty, but is destitute of historical interest, and even of the common attraction of a ruin, which, in the estimation of antiquarians, might have justified its preservation, to deface an elegant building, and offend the eye of strangers. It must indicate to strangers either a scarcity of money, or a want of taste in the inhabitants. Its removal, and the erection of a tower or spire, which would form a prominent and commanding object from Leith to the mouth of the Frith of Forth, have long been projected and talked of, but have hitherto been prevented, chiefly from the difficulty of raising the requisite funds.

The age of the old church was unknown. It was repaired and enlarged in 1643. It required repairs in 1806 that would have cost L.700. Instead of expending such a sum in repairs, the heritors resolved to erect a new church, if money for this purpose could be raised. The novel method adopted by the heritors to free themselves from the expense of erecting it, has done much to restrict accommodation for the parishioners in the present church. Instead of providing funds by an assessment, as law directs, they resolved to procure plans, and to ascertain, before proceeding to build, what sum could be realized by the sale of pews. After the plan of the proposed church had been exhibited for the inspection of the inhabitants, a committee of the heritors, appointed for the purpose, proceeded to sell the pews by public roup. In the articles and conditions of sale, the following clause was inserted : “ in case a sum sufficient for finishing the church shall not be received from the sale of seats, it will be in the power of the



heritors to adopt such other method in building the church as they shall be advised, and in that case the sale to be made in virtue of these articles to be null and void." The sale of seats realized L.3428, and the estimate for executing the plan was L.2740. It would appear, however, that by extra work, changes on the plan, law-expenses in settling disputes with the contractor, and additional work to make the church sufficient, the whole of the money was expended; for a gallery was afterwards sold to the kirk-session for L.205, 11s. and a small assessment additional was required to settle the accounts. No detailed account of these money transactions can now be found; and it is commonly said, that no such account was ever rendered by those who took charge of the business.

Hitherto there have been no free sittings in the church. The kirk-session have charge of the communion or table-seats containing 160 sittings, and a gallery, which they purchased with poor's money, containing 200 sittings. These sittings have hitherto been let, and the rents applied in maintaining the poor. As this exaction in parish churches has been found to be illegal, it will, in future, be discontinued, and these sittings will be free. All the rest of the church is private property, and is occupied or let by the proprietors. Great inconvenience is experienced by the letting of sittings being in the hands of a great number of proprietors. It is difficult for those who want accommodation to find out where sittings may be got; and families coming to the parish often find it exceedingly difficult to get themselves accommodated, not so much because there is no room, for the church is not filled, (the average attendance will be from 1200 to 1300), but because they cannot find proprietors willing to let their seats. Pews of eight sittings have of late been selling for from L.40 to L.50. This is a virtual exclusion of the poor from the area of the church, in which these pews are situated, for they cannot acquire such pews; and those, whose worldly circumstances allow them to advance such a sum for church accommodation to their families, are often unwilling, by receiving a rent, to admit to sit beside them their less opulent neighbours.\*

\* An accident, attended with great loss of life, happened in this church in 1828. The Rev. Edward Irving of London was to preach on the evening of the sacramental Sabbath, and the church was densely crowded before the hour when worship was to commence. Before he entered the pulpit, the gallery upon the north side of the church gave way, in a moment and without warning, and precipitated not less than 250 individuals upon an equal number in the area below. "The scene," says an eye-witness, "that immediately ensued baffles all description. The cloud of dust that arose, the prayers and supplications for mercy, the howlings, the groans and la-

The manse was built in 1808, and is in good repair; but the offices are in a ruinous state. About six acres of land belong to the minister, consisting of glebe-land, and land enjoyed from a private mortification, in very nearly equal proportions. Its annual value is about L.36.

The modified stipend is 19 chalders, but teinds to this amount have not yet been found. A protracted process of locality was carried on, which was terminated in 1840; and there is a deficiency of L.48, 8s. 9d. of teind to make up the stipend modified. The interest of the money spent in this process would very nearly have paid this deficiency to the minister in all time coming. The expense of the process first and last must have been L.1000. The present stipend is paid according to a decret of locality obtained in 1737, and is 120 bolls, 2 firlots, and  $1\frac{1}{2}$  lippies barley; 79 bolls, 3 firlots, and  $2\frac{1}{4}$  lippies oats; and L.13, 1s.  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. for vicarage and communion elements. The late augmentation is 1 firlot, 3 pecks, and  $\frac{7}{12}$  of a lippie of barley, and L.44, 0s.  $9\frac{3}{4}$ d. in money. The decret of 1737, which is still the rule of payment, gives the teind of fish according to use and wont; but nothing is realized from this item.

The ecclesiastical state of this parish has undergone several important changes. From an early date, and for a long period, the ministerial charge of the parish was collegiate. The Crown is patron of the first charge, and the town-council were patrons of the second. Prior to 1650, one-half of the second minister's stipend was paid by the town, the other half by the heritors. This is stated in the beginning of the oldest volume of the kirk-session records: "Steipend payed to the second minister of Kirkcaldie, viz. 800 merks, equalie divyded by the toune and parosch." In 1612, the town agreed to be assessed for their proportion of the second minister's stipend. The same day, October 14, 1612, "David Huchone, baillie, declarit to the haill nybouris of the comunitie thair present, that Mr Ihone Gillespie, minister, was

mentations of the wounded, the frantic and terrific-like appearance of those emerging from the broken beams and rafters, are circumstances not easy to be effaced from the minds of those who were called to witness them." It was a considerable time, amid the panic and confusion that immediately followed the dreadful crash, before the amount of destruction could be ascertained. The killed and wounded were as speedily as possible extricated from the ruins, when it was found that sixteen females and twelve males had perished. Few were killed by the falling of the gallery. The greater part of the twenty-eight were either suffocated by the pressure of the crowd striving to get out, or having lost their balance, fell down, and were trodden to death. A lively recollection of the awful scene makes many nervous, and fills them with alarm when there is an appearance of the church being crowded.



proponit to the towne to be ane secund minister to thame; and thairfore demandid of thame giff they wald be contentit to be taxit of thair awn gudwill for payment of the said Mr Ihone his stipend for the townis part, or uther wayis giff they wald lose the benefit of the said Mr Ihone his doctreine in default of moeyen for intertenuing of him to teach and instruct thame in the word of God. Qurunto they maist willinglie agreit, approving and allowing the agrement wt the said Mr Ihone to be ane gud and ane godlie wark, and that they willinglie agreit to be stentit to that effect." After 1650, the date of the parish of Abbotshall being disjoined from Kirkcaldy, the town paid the whole of the second minister's stipend. No hesitation in appointing, and no doubts of the town's liability to support the second minister, seem to have arisen till about 1740. The difficulty of continuing to maintain this living was occasioned by a considerable portion of an augmentation, obtained by the first minister in 1737, having fallen on the town for the lands they had feued, in the feuing of which the town reserved for itself all public burdens, as if for the purpose of publishing annually, that the town had once been possessed of considerable property in land. The town's desire to reduce the ecclesiastical establishment by discontinuing the second minister, in order to relieve the funds from the burden of his stipend, was first manifested in 1741.\* A vacancy was prolonged at this time for upwards of two years. On various grounds, the town craved delay from the presbytery, always professing that there was "no intention to sink the said charge." The council applied to the Lord Advocate of the day for an opinion as to their liability to appoint and maintain a second minister. After reasoning on the memorial, his Lordship concludes thus: "After what has been been said I must be of opinion, that the presbytery has a power, after the lapse of the patron's time, to settle a minister, and that he will be entitled to 1000 merks stipend, that has uniformly been paid to the second minister for so long a time." On receiving this opinion, the town-council appointed a minister. When the next vacancy occurred in 1759, the town offered to pay the first minister a certain portion of the second minister's stipend if he would undertake to discharge the whole duties. This offer was accepted by the minister, and connived at by the presbytery, and thus the council accomplished, by an unworthy compromise, what they had previously found they could not accomplish by law. This agree-

\* Town and Presbytery records.

ment was not disturbed till the death of the incumbent in 1767. From this date, the town has retained the whole of the second minister's stipend, and the charge has remained vacant. Among the evils entailed by the sale of the town's lands, with a reservation of all the public burdens, this suppression of a ministerial charge, though by no means the smallest, is seldom heard of. The purchasers have gained by the bargain, the town-council have gained, the church and the religious interests of the community have chiefly suffered.

Application was made to the presbytery in 1649, by the heritors of this parish, requesting inquiry to be made as to the necessity for erecting another church in the parish; the heritors expressing, at the same time, their willingness to provide a church and stipend for an additional minister, should the Presbytery think this necessary. Heritors and presbyteries appear to have understood in these days the principles of church extension. The Presbytery recommended to the Commissioners of the Parliament for surrenders and tithes, "that, besydes the church w<sup>thin</sup> the burgh of Kirkcaldie, for ye present usuallie attendit be two ministers, a church sould be erectit in ye landward for a distinct congregation." The proposed disjunction took place in the following year, and the present parish of Abbotshall, which contains almost the whole of the landward part of the original parish of Kirkcaldy, was erected.

The Rev. Robert M'Indoe, a member of the original Burgher Associate Synod, who had a congregation in this parish, lately returned with many of his brethren to the communion of the Church of Scotland. A new church, containing 840 sittings, has been erected for this congregation, which cost L.2000. It was opened last year. It is situated near the east end of the town, is called the East Port Church, and has the eastern part of the burgh, containing a population of 1977, assigned to it as a parish *quoad sacra*. The stipend is derived from seat-rents and collections, and varies according to the number of members. The minister has no bond for his stipend.

Besides the two churches in connection with the Establishment, there are four places of worship in the parish belonging to different religious denominations, viz. United Secession, Episcopalians, Independents, and Scottish Baptists. A few Bereans and old Independents regularly meet for worship, but neither of them has a church.



	Date of erection.	Cost.	Sittings.	Stipend.
United Secession Church,	1822	L. 1700	750	L. 160
Episcopalian,	1813	800	132	L. 37 to L. 65
Independent,	1803	650	480	L. 100 to L. 112
Scottish Baptists,	1822	700	350	services of pastors gratuitous.

These stipends are raised from collections and seat-rents. There are two diets for public worship each Sabbath in all the churches; in some of them there are frequently three. These congregations are collected from a number of parishes; and, on the other hand, many from this parish attend a United Secession congregation in Abbotshall, and a congregation of Original Seceders in Pathhead, and a few go to a Relief church in Dysart.

*Religious Societies.*—There are two Bible Societies in the parish, a Tract Society, a Sabbath Evening School Society, and a Parochial Association in connection with the General Assembly's Schemes. Some of the congregations have missionary associations within themselves. The average amount annually collected for purely religious purposes by the societies within the parish cannot be less than L.150. The interest of L.400, mortified by Robert Philp, Esq. for the circulation of the scriptures, is annually sent to the British and Foreign Bible Society, agreeably to the directions given in his trust-deed.

*Education.*—There are 15 schools in the parish, attended by 773 scholars. Eight of these, with 206 scholars, are taught by females; three for young ladies, who are instructed in French, music, &c; and five for girls, who are taught needle-work, as well as the elementary branches of English reading, writing, and arithmetic; one of them called the Ladies' School, because it is supported and superintended by a committee of ladies, is partially maintained by subscriptions; and another is supported chiefly by the benevolence of one family. There is an infant school included in the eight, which is also supported by subscriptions.

The heritors have never been burdened with the maintenance of a parochial school in this parish. The town's funds bear the whole expense of the burgh school. For a long period this school had two teachers, who received small salaries, and were quite independent of each other; and in order to prevent interference or opposition, they were restricted by the council to teach particular branches. The burgh school is now under the charge of Mr John Lockhart, as rector, with one assistant. He is allowed L.50 of

\* Report by the Commissioners of Religious Instruction in Scotland in 1838.

salary, without a house, and L.40 for his assistant. There are upwards of 170 pupils attending the school. The present school-house is insufficient for the accommodation of such a number; but measures are at present in progress for erecting new and more commodious school-rooms in a more open and airy situation than that of the present school-house. The elementary branches are taught in all the schools, and in three of them, Greek, Latin, French, and mathematics are taught. In the burgh school, the fees vary from 3s. to 10s. per quarter, according to the branches taught. In some of the other schools the fees are higher, and in some a shade lower than the rates fixed by the council for the burgh teacher. "Scale of fees in the burgh school, fixed by the magistrates: English alone, 3s. per quarter; English with writing, 4s. 6d.; English grammar, arithmetic, and writing, 5s. 6d.; arithmetic, rudiments of Latin, geography, and writing, 6s. 6d.; writing alone, for one hour, 2s. 6d. The above fees include pens, and no charge is to be made for coals or janitor."

"Any branches taught besides the above, to be by special agreement with the teacher; but in no case can more than 3s. 6d. per quarter be charged, in addition to the highest rate of 6s. 6d. as above, making in all 10s. per quarter."

Robert Philp, Esq. a native of this parish, long an extensive manufacturer in the town, and an elder in the Established Church, who died in 1828, left the munificent bequest of L.74,000, the interest of which is to be expended in educating and clothing 400 children, who are "most needy," in this district. Schools have been erected and teachers appointed under this trust in Kirkcaldy, Pathhead, and Abbotshall. In Pathhead, 150 children are taught and clothed; in Kirkcaldy, 100; in Abbotshall, 100; and 50 children are sent to the parish school of Kinghorn and clothed by the trust. Children are not admissible under six years of age, and they are not allowed to remain after they are fifteen. Well-behaved scholars, on leaving school, are allowed a sum "to enable them to begin the world." At present, the funds allow them from L.7 to L.10, according to their merits. The management of the fund is committed to eighteen trustees, consisting of the two oldest justices of the peace within the burgh, the minister of Kirkcaldy, three ministers of the presbytery of Kirkcaldy to be elected, four elders from the kirk-session of Kirkcaldy, also to be elected, and eight of the burgh trustees. Some of the details of managing the schools without the burgh are devolved on a board of managers



provided for in the trust-deed. The Kirkcaldy school is entirely under the management of the eighteen trustees. The teacher's salary in Kirkcaldy is L.100, and a schoolmistress is engaged to teach the girls to sew, at a yearly salary of L.15. The branches taught are, English reading, writing, arithmetic, and music. The testator provides for a Sabbath school being taught in all the four districts, and allows an annual sum of L.10 to each district for this purpose.

The sum of L.780 was mortified by Mr John Thomson, merchant in Kirkcaldy, who died in 1810, the half of the interest of which is to be expended "in paying school wages, and providing school-books for poor children of the parish of Kirkcaldy." About 20 children of the class described receive education from this fund.

Few places in Scotland enjoy such educational advantages as Kirkcaldy. There are few, if any in the parish, above twelve years of age, who cannot read; there are very few who cannot write a little. Nor need there be any. With such facilities for obtaining a gratuitous education, the neglect of it in the poorest would be inexcusable. It may be inferred, from the number and urgency of applicants for the benefit of the trust-funds of Philp and Thomson, that the advantages of education are generally appreciated.

*Literature.*—There are five public libraries in the parish, viz. Kirkcaldy Subscription Library, with 4000 volumes; Kirkcaldy Mechanics' Library, 1500; United Secession Congregational Library, 340; two circulating libraries, 2600.

*Scientific Association.*—A scientific association was formed here a few years ago, which provides a course of popular scientific lectures for the community during the winter season. These lectures have frequently excited considerable interest. They have been generally well attended, and have diffused much valuable information.

There is a public reading-room in the town, and a small weekly newspaper is published on Saturday.

*Charitable Institutions.*—About thirty years ago, a few friendly societies were formed in the parish, but being based on erroneous principles, they soon began to decline, and they have all been long extinct.

A charitable institution, denominated the "Prime Gilt Box," which provides for old and disabled mariners belonging to the

port, and for their widows and orphans, and for the relief of shipwrecked seamen, has existed in this parish from a period prior to 1591. Officers and men, in vessels belonging to the port, long paid a per centage of their wages into this society. These contributions are no longer paid. A proposal was made a few years ago to dissolve the society, and divide the funds among the existing members. This was prevented by interdict, and the Court of Session ultimately found, that the society cannot be dissolved, and that the whole property of the society is held in trust for the society called the "Prime Gilt Box of Kirkcaldy." The value of the property belonging to this society, the income of which will in future be applied in relieving poor seamen, their widows, and orphans, is from L.2000 to L.3000.

The half of the interest of L.780, mortified by Mr John Thomson, (the other half being for educational purposes), is applied "towards the support of respectable inhabitants of Kirkcaldy who have seen better days."

*Savings' Bank.*—A branch of the National Security Savings' Bank was established here three years ago.

The following statement will show its present condition :

263	depositors of sums under L.5,	L.375	5	11
102	..., ..., above L.5 and under L.10,	698	8	10
114	... .. 10 ... 20,	1568	9	11
97	... .. 20 ... 50,	2842	19	2
25	... .. 50 ... 100,	1592	18	0
2	... .. 100 ... 150,	244	14	8
<hr/>		<hr/>		
603		L.7322	17	6
6	charitable societies,	53	15	7
5	friendly do.	433	6	8
		<hr/>		
		L.7809	19	9

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—No legal assessment has yet been imposed in this parish. The poor are maintained from the collections at the church door and subscriptions among the inhabitants. The amount of annual church collections is about L.200; L.33 have hitherto been got from seat-rents; and the additional sum required has been furnished by subscription. A sum upwards of L.400 is annually required to maintain the poor. The average number of paupers on the roll for a few years past is 110.

Besides the provision made for paupers by the kirk-session, much is done in the town for the relief of the destitute, by a Ladies' Benevolent Society, a Clothing Society, and a fund annually raised to supply the poor with coals. In very few parishes are



the poor more liberally provided for, and are the wants of the destitute more promptly attended to and relieved?

*Prison.*—The Kirkcaldy jail is the best in the county of Fife. Under the New Prison Act, its management has been much improved. The prisoners are constantly employed, and great care is taken that proper attention be paid to their health, their diet, their education, and religious instruction. It is now a place more for the reformation than the punishment of prisoners.

*Inns and Ale-houses.*—In the parish 54 houses are licensed to sell ardent spirits. Vigorous and successful efforts have been made of late to detect the irregularity of some of the houses, and to bring their possessors to punishment; and it is to be hoped that this system of vigilant superintendence will be kept up, and that it will succeed in checking and preventing that noise and rioting, especially on Saturday nights and Sabbath mornings, of which there has been good reason to complain.

*February 1843.*

## PARISH OF DAIRSIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANGUS MACGILLIVRAY, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Situation and Surface.*—THIS parish is of an irregular form, extending from the south-east to the north-west, two Scots miles, and from the south-west to the north-east, nearly as much. Its general appearance is that of a gently rising ground. The soil is for the most part fertile, and in many places rich and deep. The air is generally dry and healthy. There are no considerable rivers in this district, except the Eden, which forms its boundary to the south and south-east.

Craigfoodie Hill is the highest point of land in the parish, and may be about 500 feet above the level of the sea. It presents a fine precipitous mural and somewhat columnar front to the south-west. Another height towards the west is Foodie Hill, planted, on which a whinstone quarry has been opened. The lower parts of the parish, near the river Eden, exhibit freestone in abundance.

*Rivers.*—The river Eden abounds in salmon and trout, and the “Dairsie streams” are well known to the lovers of angling.

The only other river except the Eden is the Middlefoodie Burn, in which there are some trout. It intersects the parish towards the north, and runs eastward till, joining the Mottray, both of these streams run into the Frith of Eden, near the Inner Bridge, about two miles from the German Ocean.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—These are of baptisms, commencing February 27, 1705; marriages, October 1, 1783; burials, October 1, 1783.

*Land-owners.*—The names of the land-owners and their properties are as follows: Chapelwell and Dairsie, Judge Erskine; New Mill, Mrs Bayne; Todhall and Middle Foodie, the Trustees of James Cheape, Esq.; Fingask, Heirs of the late Mr Somerville, now sold to Thomas Whitson, Esq.; Wester Craigfoodie, William Fortune, Esq.; Pitormie, John Meldrum, Esq.; Craigfoodie, David Meldrum, Esq.; Foodie, John Small, Esq.

*Mansion-houses.*—These are, Craigfoodie, Mr Meldrum; Pitormie, Mr Meldrum; Newmill, Mrs Bayne.

*Castle of Dairsie.* \*—The old Castle of Dairsie, now in ruins, although still in wonderful preservation, is situated on that part of the estate of Dairsie parish known by the name of Dairsie, the property, at this time, of Judge Erskine, by his marriage with Miss Traill, the daughter of the former proprietor. It is built upon a rising ground near the banks of the river Eden, which stream forms the southern boundary of that beautiful estate for about one mile and a half. This must have been a place of some consequence in early times, for we learn, that, in the minority of David II., 1335, the then Regents of Scotland, Stewart and Moray, held a Parliament in the Castle of Dairsie, probably selected as a place of strength and retirement in these troublesome times.†

The estate of Dairsie, like most others in the country, has had many owners. On 28th December 1520, it was conveyed by feu-charter by Andrew Archbishop of St Andrews and his chapter, to David Learmonth of Clatta and his son James. Continuing in the possession of the family of the Learmonths till 1616, it became the property of the Spottiswoods, the unfor-

\* Communicated by a gentleman connected with one of the principal estates in the parish.

† See Note to Sibbald's History of Fife, p. 400.



fortunate family who suffered so much by opposing the Covenanters. Dr John Spottiswood of Dairsie was Archbishop of St Andrews and Chancellor of Scotland about 1590. His son, Sir Robert, recovered many records and documents about the Scottish Church from abroad, which had been carried away by the monks at the time of the Reformation. He was beheaded at St Andrews, 1646, by decree of Parliament assembled there. Captain John Spottiswood, younger of Dairsie, was put to death in Edinburgh, 1650, at the same time as was the gallant and renowned James Graham, Marquis of Montrose, and many others. In 1646, Sir John Spottiswood conveyed Dairsie to Sir G. Morrison, Knight, and it was adjudged by his creditors, and purchased by Thomas Earl of Kincardine for L.73,636, 3s. 4d. Scots. In 1772, it was again sold by the Earl then of Elgin and Kincardine, to General Scott of Balcomy, and falling to his eldest daughter Henrietta, who was married to the Duke of Portland, it was purchased by Mr Barnes of London, and afterwards became disjoined, in consequence of speculating purchasers, until it remains with the heritors already enumerated.

On the estate of Dairsie is a pleasant small residence, called Dairsie Cottage, of modern date, and surrounded with wood. It stands to the west of the castle, overlooking the Eden. A number of years since, it was occupied for some time by that unfortunate nobleman, Lord William Russell, who was so inhumanly murdered in London lately by his French valet, Courvoisier. During his residence there, his Lordship was much admired for his unpretending mode of life and kind behaviour, although he lived strictly private, and was held in high esteem in the neighbourhood.

Near the old castle, the grounds of which the present proprietor keeps in great order, is the parish church built by the Archbishop Spottiswood about 1615. In the life of Spottiswood, prefixed to his History of the Church, it is said, "He, the Archbishop, built upon his own charges the church of Dairsie after the decent English form, which, if the boisterous hand of a mad reformation had not disordered, is at this time (1678) one of the beautifullest little pieces of church work that is now left to that now unhappy country."\*

The above is far from an overstretched account of this edifice, which originally had a flat roof with lead, and most grotesque

\* Life of Spottiswood.

shaped windows in the Gothic style, and a belfry tower near it. Now it is modernized by a roof of the modern shape, and the steeple pointed as others.

In the records of the synod of Fife, lately published for the Abbotsford Club, we find that, in 1641, a report anent the church of Dairsie was presented, when it appeared that the brethren and ruling elders had been appointed to visit the church of Dairsie, "anent superstitious monuments and kirk burial," who found that, "at the entrie of sindrie desks upon the platform, and above the great west door, there are *crociar staffes*, being a sign of the degree of the last prebend and bishops, as not hierarchical according to the manner and form used among the Roman hierarchs, and further found superstitious "a glorious partition wall, with a degree ascending thereto." All these were denounced by the provincial assembly, and the minister, and elders, and heritors were ordained "to take order of the same," and this order was several times renewed in after meetings. In 1645, in an assembly held at Dunfermline, an order was made about "the levelling of the queer in Dairsie Church."

Within these few years, a vault was discovered in the east end of the church, near the pulpit, and found to contain coffins and bones, being used as a place of interment. It is understood that this practice of burying in the inside of churches is in future to be done away with, as prejudicial to the health of the sitters.

### III.—POPULATION

Population in 1755,	469
1790-8,	540
1801,	550
1811,	553
1821,	589
1831,	605
1841,	669

The number of illegitimate births in the parish within the last three years, 5.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture.*—

Number of acres standard imperial measure in the parish, which are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	2247
Number of acres which never have been cultivated, and which remain constantly waste or in pasture,	15
Number of acres that might, with a profitable application of capital, be added to the cultivated land,	0
Number of acres in a state of undivided common,	0
Number of acres under wood, whether natural or planted,	44

#### *Valuation of Dairsie Parish, 1695.*—

Dairsie,	L.1200 0 0
Mr William Bethune's, Craigfoodie,	520 0 0



Cullarnies, Craigfoodie,	L. 181 13 4
Newmyln,	158 0 0
Pitormy,	121 0 0
Fingask,	352 13 4
Foodie,	583 0 0

*Rent of Land.*—The average rent of land per acre, L.2, 10s. per Scotch acre.

*Rental.*—The real rental of the parish is about L.4400.

*Manufactures.*—These are, manufacture of dowlases, by Mr John Inglis, employing 35 hands; flax-spinning, by Mr John Annan, 5200 spindles annually; flax-spinning, by Mr Michael Smith, 31,200 spindles annually.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Villages.*—The villages in this parish are those of Middlefoodie and Osnaburgh, or Dairsie Moor. The former consists of a few straggling houses and some small feus. The houses are principally of little value, most of them being occupied by the labourers on Todhall, to the proprietor of which (Mr Cheape's Trustees) most of them belong. The village of Osnaburgh is becoming more populous, and is a thriving village about a quarter of a mile from the church to the northward, and is intersected by the great posting road from Edinburgh by Cupar to Newport. The turnpike road is well kept, and several coaches pass daily through this village.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The number of Dissenting or Seceding families in the parish is about 12 or 15. Amount of stipend, wheat, 12 bolls; meal, 60 bolls, 3 pecks; barley, 98 bolls, 3 pecks; oats, 48 bolls; and L. 55, 7s. 1d. Sterling money. The glebe is about six acres in extent,—value, L.2 an acre. There is a good manse, which was built in 1825.

#### *List of Ministers of Dairsie.\*—*

Mr Peter Ramsay, admitted 1567.

Mr John Williamson, vicar, admitted November 24th 1577.

Mr James Yuille, 1590, died 1610.

Mr John Rutherford, admitted February 1611, translated to Monifieth 1626.

Mr Patrick Scougal, 1636, translated to Leuchars 1645.

Mr David Rait, translated from Newburgh 1645, conformed to Episcopacy 1662, translated to Kinnaird 1664.

Mr George Paterson, admitted 1665, outed 1689.

Vacant from 1689 to 1696.

Mr Andrew Geddie, March 3, 1696.

• Vacant October 1703.

• Robert Macculloch, D. D.; Mr John Macarthur. Mr Angus Macgillivray, present incumbent.\*

• *Education*.—The number of schools in the parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, three. The yearly amount of parochial school-master's salary, L. 34, 4s. 4½d., with house and garden. The probable yearly amount of fees actually paid to parochial school-master, L.25.

• *Poor*.—Average number of persons receiving parochial aid, 12. Average sum allotted to each of such persons per week, 1s. Average annual amount of contributions for relief of the poor : from church collections, L.18; from alms, legacies, &c. L.17.

• February 1843.

## PARISH OF STRATHMIGLO.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE MIDDLETON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

• *Boundaries, Name*.—THIS parish is bounded on the north by Abernethy and Arngask; on the west, by Orwell and Portmoak; on the south, by Falkland and Portmoak; and on the east, by Auchtermuchty. The name is obviously derived from the Miglo, a small stream which flows eastward through the strath, and is afterwards designated the Eden. In form, the parish resembles a very irregular oblong, extending in length seven miles, and varying from two to four miles in breadth.

• *Topographical Appearances*.—The greater part of the surface consists of two gentle acclivities rising on either side of the stream which divides the parish. On the south, and forming a striking natural limit to the parish, rises the West Lomond hill, whose elevation above the level of the sea has been computed at 1700 feet, and which, diversified by bold mural cliffs, thriving woods, and rich sward, constitutes a very picturesque object. On the north, it terminates in a succession of inconsiderable eminences, which may be regarded as a continuation of the Ochil range.

\* See Appendix to Records of Synod of Fife, printed for Abbotsford Club.



*Soil.*—The soil on the south is light, and rests on red sandstone ; it is not remarkable for fertility, though in some farms good barley is raised. On the north of the Miglo, the soil rests on a whinstone bed, and consists of a rich friable loam, which yields abundant crops. There is thus no want of good materials, both freestone and whin, adapted for building and enclosures. From the side of the Lomond hill, white freestone has also been quarried, which is said to be durable and susceptible of a fine polish. It is surprising that the latter has been so little used instead of the dingy brick-red, which offends the eye in most of the mansions in the neighbourhood.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

At a remote period, the lands of Strathmiglo appear to have belonged to the Crown, whence they passed into the hands of the Scotts of Balwearie, an ancient and powerful family. In the beginning of the sixteenth century, a royal charter was granted, constituting these lands into a barony, with power to form the feuars into a burgh of barony, and vesting the nomination of its magistrates in the superior. The superiority afterwards was obtained by the family of Balfour of Burleigh, noted in Scottish history, whose arms are carved on the front of the town-house. After the Rebellion in 1745 was quelled, hereditary jurisdictions, the barbaric remnant of feudalism, were annulled ; and Strathmiglo was, in consequence, deprived of the usual baronial privileges. The feuars, however, still retain the management of some property pertaining to the original burgh, and use it in a very creditable and beneficial manner.

The ecclesiastical history of this parish is not destitute of interest. The church was originally collegiate, and connected with the bishopric of Dunkeld. When the Papal hierarchy was assailed and overturned, this, in common with many other districts in Fife, took a lively interest in the Reformed religion, and steadily adhered to the Presbyterian worship and government through its chequered and eventful history. A sequestered spot, called Glenvale, is still pointed out as a place of resort in troubled times. In point of romantic scenery, it may bear comparison with the wild recess in Cartland Crags, where the Covenanters of the west met for the same purpose. When the secession took place early in last century, we find a notarial protest taken by the kirk-session of this parish against the Seceders ordaining elders here, charging them with “ intrusion,” and threaten-

ing prosecution. This singular paper may be found (p. 194) in Swan's Views and History of Fife. The following is a list of the ministers of this parish from an early period :—

1. Mr George Leslie, 1560 ; admitted vicar of Auchtermuchty, 1575. 2. Mr William Braidfut, 1560. 3. Mr John Balfour, reader, with L.20 Scots of stipend. 4. Mr Alexander Muir, minister, 1574, with L.106, 13s. 4d. Scots of stipend. 5. Robert Scott, reader. 6. Mr James Balcanquel, 1589. 7. John Moncrieff, 1633. 8. John Murray, conformed to Presbytery in 1638. 9. John Rigg, admitted 1655, and afterwards conformed to Episcopacy. 10. David Barclay, outed in 1689. 11. Alexander Auchmoutie, 1690. 12. Thomas Black, 1695. 13. Mr George Gillespie, 1699, grandson of the famous George Gillespie, member of the Westminster Assembly. 14. George Lyon, 1754, grandson of the above Mr Gillespie. 15. Mr John Martin. 16. George Bennet. 17. George Middleton, 1836.

*Antiquities.*—Within a recent period, the west portion of this parish is said to have contained numerous cairns, imagined to be relics of Druidical superstition. On and around the West Lomond, may be found abundance of rocky fragments of fantastic shape and position ; but whether so moulded and piled by nature or by the “ Druid hoary,” we pretend not to determine. Within the memory of the present generation, there also existed several barrows and tumuli, with human bones, ashes, and warlike instruments. The consequence has been, that Strathmiglo has now lodged its claim among the parishes which compete for the honour of containing the site of the celebrated battle of Mons Grampius, described by Tacitus, in which the warlike but undisciplined Caledonians under Galgacus were defeated by the legions of Agricola.

### III.—POPULATION.

The following is a table of the population, as taken at different intervals :

In 1755, it amounted to	1095
1690,	980
1801,	1629
1811,	1697
1821,	1842
1831,	1940
1841,	2187

#### Analysis of census 1841.

Total population,	2187
Males,	1009
Females,	1178
Families, total number of,	517
Number of persons under 15 years,	776
betwixt 15 and 30 years,	604



Number of persons betwixt 30 and 50,	-	483
50 and 70,	-	263
upwards of 70,	-	61

The lands of this parish are divided among twenty-three proprietors, of whom eighteen possess property of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards. Eight of the heritors are non-resident. Six individuals in the parish are fatuous; one is blind from the effects of an accident; and one is deaf and dumb. There is no peculiarity in the general customs or character of the people deserving of special notice.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—This parish gives employment to 186 males as farmers and farm-servants. Its surface may amount to about 5000 acres; of which nearly 600 are entirely adapted for pasturage, and 350 are planted. The remainder is under regular cultivation. Upon minute inquiry, the gross rental of the parish at present is fully L.9000. According to the diversity of soil and situation, the annual rent per acre varies from 15s. to L.4. The most extensive land-owner is P. G. Skene, Esq. of Hallyards and Pitlour. The leases extend, with some trifling exceptions, to nineteen years, the rent being generally payable, partly in money and partly in grain, according to the fiars prices. The tenantry may justly be characterized as an intelligent and enterprising body of men, under whom husbandry has reached a very advanced stage of improvement. In the more fertile farms, a rotation of four years is adopted, its tendency to exhaust the soil being counteracted by the liberal application of manure, partly produced on the farm and partly procured, at a considerable expense, from the adjacent villages. In the less fertile soils, the fields are usually allowed to remain three years in grass, making a rotation of six years. Nearly the whole parish is divided by substantial enclosures. In several of the thrashing-machines, water-power is employed; and the farmsteadings are in general commodious and in good repair. There is one flour-mill, recently improved and enlarged, and four for other descriptions of grain.

*Manufactures.*—The staple employment of the great body of the parishioners of both sexes in the village is the manufacture of linens. These are wrought up in great variety, such as diapers, damask, dowlas, linen checks, and table-linens. In this department of industry, from 500 to 600 persons are engaged. Formerly, the hand-loom weavers were employed by the extensive manufacturers of Dunfermline, Dundee, and Kirkcaldy, by means

of intermediate agents; but of late, almost the whole trade has been carried on by resident manufacturers, transacting business on their own account. There are also in the parish a bleachfield and a spinning-mill, both of which are upon a small scale. Those employed in weaving are of course paid by the piece, and work from ten to fourteen hours per day. From the fluctuations in trade, the rate of remuneration is necessarily very variable. A few years ago, it was double and even treble its present amount. But although this, in common with other manufacturing districts, has severely felt the late depression of trade, very few have here been destitute of employment for any great length of time; and, small as the wages have been, and still are, it has not been found necessary, as in many other localities under similar circumstances, to have recourse to extraordinary measures, to meet the pressing wants of the population.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—There is no market in this parish; but in the adjacent towns of Auchtermuchty, Milnathort, Newburgh, and Cupar, at distances varying from two to eleven miles, regular weekly markets are held. Auchtermuchty is the nearest. In Newburgh, at the distance of eight miles, a ready market is afforded for potatoes, cattle, swine, &c., which are shipped thence for the London market. The population in the village of Strathmiglo and its outskirts amounts to nearly 1400. The only other village is Edenshead or Gateside.

*Means of Communication.*—These are in general good. The parish may contain eight miles of turnpike, and five of statute labour roads, all kept in excellent order. Here, as throughout the country at large, improvement is in nothing so evident as in the highways. The post-office here is an appendage to that of Kinross. No public carriages pass at present through Strathmiglo.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is situated near the east extremity of the parish; but, being in the centre of the village, containing the mass of the population, no fault can be found with its site. It was built about fifty-eight years ago, and is in tolerable repair; but it is a paltry structure, and ill seated within. It is also rather small, containing accommodation for 750 persons. There are no free sittings, the whole area being divided among the heritors. The price charged for a sitting, however, is small, being from 1s. to 2s. 6d. annually. The manse is sixty years old, and from its situation was rather damp and confined. About



five years ago, it underwent a thorough repair, and was much enlarged, and made altogether commodious and comfortable. The glebe extends to four acres. Its annual value may be L.12. By a recent decision of the Court of Teinds, the stipend was fixed at 17 chalders, half meal and half barley, with L.10 for communion elements. There is another place of worship in Strathmiglo, connected with the Reformed Presbyterian Church, stated to have a congregation of about 200 from this and other parishes. The number of communicants may be 140, of whom 90 belong to Strathmiglo. At Edenshead, there is another place of worship, belonging to the United Associate Synod, the congregation of which has been computed at 300, of whom 200 may be communicants. Divine service is well attended at all these places of worship. Of the entire parishioners, upwards of 1400 may be in connection with the Established Church, and the average number of communicants is 430. A Tract Society is in operation, which distributes monthly a religious tract gratuitously to every family in the parish. It is supported by occasional collections and contributions.

*Education.*—There are five seminaries, viz. the parochial school, a female school, built by Mr Skene of Pitlour, who allows a small salary to the teacher, and three subscription schools. These are all conveniently situated. The parochial school was greatly enlarged by the heritors a few years ago, and may comfortably contain 150 pupils. A convenient play-ground was recently purchased by subscription. The teacher's dwelling is also commodious. He has the maximum salary.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of poor on the regular roll is 18 at present, who receive altogether L.1, 12s. per week, the lowest allowance being 1s. and the highest 4s. There are also two lunatics maintained in Perth Asylum, and one blind person partly supported in the Asylum for the Blind. The expense of the three amounts to about L.50 per annum. For the relief of the poor, upwards of L.20 is annually obtained from the stated weekly offerings at the church doors. There is land of the yearly value of L.19 devoted to the same object, and a sum of money yielding L.10 of interest. The parochial minister has also the management of a small property worth L.9 annually, for behoof of indigent persons in the parish. The balance is made up by occasional voluntary assessments among the heritors. It may be proper to state that a Friendly Society exists here. It was

formed in 1806, and at present numbers 213 members. The annual payment is 5s. During illness, a member of it becomes entitled to 3s. 6d. per week for the first nine months, after which the allowance is reduced to 2s. When any member is superannuated, he has a permanent weekly allowance of 1s. It is proper to state, that, while in this as in every district containing a considerable population, there are some individuals hackneyed in mendicity, there is in this parish a prevailing disposition among the poor to refrain from seeking parochial relief. An honourable, though laborious independence, is in general preferred to the resources of charity.

*February 1843.*

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## PARISH OF AUCHTERMUCHTY.\*

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ROBERT JOHN JOHNSTONE, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish is bounded on the east by the parish of Collessie; on the south by Falkland; on the west by Strathmiglo; and on the north by the parishes of Abernethy, Newburgh, and Abdie. It extends in length from north-west to south-west, 4 miles, and in breadth from east to west, nearly 2 miles; but at the north and south extremities, it does not exceed 1 mile in breadth. The burgh and town of Auchtermuchty, which contains a population of 2550 persons, is situated about a mile from the southern boundary of the parish, which is washed by the river Eden, and is distant from Kirkcaldy fifteen miles, Cupar nine miles, Kinross ten miles, Newburgh five miles, and from Perth fifteen miles. The line of road from Stirling to St Andrews, perhaps one of the straightest and most direct in Scotland, passes through the southern extremity of the town; from the former of which places it is thirty-three, and from the latter twenty miles. The eastern line of communication between Perth and Edinburgh, *via* Newburgh and Kirkcaldy, passes also through the town, and a coach has now been established on the road for several years.

\* From notes furnished by Mr Archibald Dickson, parochial schoolmaster of Auchtermuchty.



The county of Perth extends to within less than a mile of the town of Auchtermuchty on the north; and the line which separates the parish, on the north-west, from that of Abernethy, forms also the boundary for nearly two miles, between the counties of Perth and Fifeshire. Almost the whole rising ground in the parish has a southern exposure, with an inclination towards the east, while the south-east part forms a section of an extensive plain of deep, rich, alluvial soil, which was mostly flooded with stagnant water during the winter season, within the remembrance of many of the inhabitants, but is now thoroughly dried, and comprehends some of the most valuable land in Scotland, renting from L. 4, 10s. to L. 5 the imperial acre.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The oldest record of this parish is a register containing the minutes of kirk-session, commencing in the year 1650, and also a separate register of births and marriages from the same period. How far the latter contains a complete record of all the births and marriages which took place within the parish at this period, it is impossible to say; but it is probable that these were much more accurately recorded at this early period, than they are now, when the parish was less a prey to religious divisions and animosities. No particular register appears to have been kept of the deaths at the time, and the number is only to be ascertained from the notices given of the funds arising from the use of the mortcloth. There is, however, a blank in the records of this parish not easily accounted for, from 1658 and 1667, till the beginning of the eighteenth century, when they appear again to have been kept with considerable regularity. At present the records of this parish, and, perhaps, of most parishes in Scotland, are far from being complete. The register of marriages, amount of collections at the church doors, and minutes of the kirk-session, are kept with great accuracy; but the record of births and deaths is most deficient. Of the former 25, and of the latter only 8 were recorded for the year 1840, while 50 deaths, and from 70 to 80 births are known to have taken place in the parish within that period. This strange anomaly may be accounted for thus: Over the registration of the former, the kirk-session have a complete control, over the latter, as the law now stands, they have little or none; and, consequently, by far the most important records are incomplete. Few or none of the Dissenters in the parish register their children's names, and in a parish

where, at least, between thirty and forty children must be born of Dissenting parents yearly, there are not as many of them recorded in the parochial registers for the last twenty years. With regard to the register of deaths, it may be observed that, for many years, a very faithful record was kept, while the kirk-session's mortcloth was used, but since it has become fashionable to use those of private societies, or, what is now much more common, none at all, no authentic record of the mortality which takes place within the parish is kept.

*Land-owners.*—The principal heritors in the parish, of which there are 65, are, Mr Bruce of Falkland; P. G. Skene of Hall-yards; and Andrew Murray, Esq. sheriff-depute of Aberdeenshire. The valued rent of the parish is L. 5783, 9s. 10d. Scots; the real rent is L.5900 Sterling. The following are the qualified heritors of the parish, with their respective valuations:

O. T. Bruce, Esq.	.	L. 2429 18 7
P. G. Skene, Esq.	.	1112 0 0
Andrew Murray, Esq.	.	504 16 9
William Johnstone, Esq.	.	249 14 8
Union Bank of Dundee,	.	216 13 10
Charles Moyes, Esq.	.	189 0 7
John Bonthron, Esq.	.	194 13 10

*Mansion Houses.*—Myres Castle is the only mansion of any consideration in the parish. It was long the residence of the Moncrieffs of Reedie, the ancestors of P. G. Skene, Esq. who sold the estate of Myres, together with the patronage of Auchtermuchty, to the late Mr Bruce, the King's printer for Scotland, about twenty years ago. Although a large addition was made to the castle about fifteen years ago, and the house is capable of accommodating a large family, the present proprietor has never taken up his residence here. The pleasure-grounds are not very extensive, including only a park of about thirty acres, while the lands on every side are perhaps too valuable for agricultural purposes ever to extend it beyond the present boundary. Bellevue, the property of Mr Marshall Gardiner, and Southfield, the property of Messrs Moncrieff, are very pleasing places of residence.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1811,	.	2403
1821,	.	2754
1831,	.	3225
1841,	.	3352

In 1841, the town and burgh of Auchtermuchty contained a population of 2550; the village of Dunshelt, which lies about a mile to





one of the best and most comfortable manses in the presbytery. The church was built in 1780, but in 1838 the patron made an addition at his own individual expense (upwards of L.500) by which nearly 400 additional sittings were added. The church now accommodates 900 sitters. It is well attended; the number of communicants is nearly 600. There are three meeting-houses in the parish besides, viz. two in connection with the United Secession Church, and one belonging to the Relief. They may accommodate 1200 sitters, and are all well attended.

*Education.*—There are six schools in the parish, of which five are in the town of Auchtermuchty and one at Dunshelt. Three of them, besides the parochial school, are partially endowed by public subscription or private munificence. The parochial schoolmaster's salary is the maximum; the school fees on an average do not exceed L.20 per annum, and his other emoluments as session-clerk and kirk treasurer are about L.12.

*Savings Bank.*—There is a savings bank in the parish. It was established upwards of twenty years ago, and has been eminently successful. There are 490 depositors, and the sum lying at interest on the 31st of December 1840, was L. 3028, 9s. The benefit of the bank is not confined to persons residing in the parish, but is extended to the surrounding district; and, accordingly, a majority of the depositors are from the parishes of Strathmiglo, Falkland, Collessie, and the surrounding country. During the year 1840 nearly L.300 was added to the stock.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of persons at present upon the poor's roll is 62, exclusive of occasional poor, as also those on the list of the female society. The expenditure for the year ending at the 1st of April 1841 was L. 293, 15s. 6d. The average aid given to each is about 6s. per month, but in some cases much more—and few or none have below 4s. per month. In most cases, a house rent of L. 1, 5s. is also allowed, and in few parishes are the wants of the poor better attended to than here. The contributions for the support of the poor in this parish have hitherto been made up of a voluntary assessment upon the landward heritors, and the collections at the church doors, which amount to about L. 30 yearly; but since the burden of supporting the poor has become so heavy of late years upon the landed heritors, several of whom have refused to pay their share of the assessment, a legal assessment was imposed in September last upon all heritable property in the parish.

*January 1843.*



# PARISH OF MOONZIE.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ALEXANDER KIDD, D. D., MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—At a very early period, previous to the year 1238, the parish was called *Urhithumonesyn*. It afterwards assumed the name of Auchtermonsey. Moonzie, its present name, is generally supposed to be a Gaelic word, which signifies the *Hill of the Deer*.

*Extent, &c.*—Moonzie is one of the smallest parishes in Scotland, being not quite two English miles in length, and one and a-half mile in breadth. It approaches in figure to a parallelogram, and is bounded on the east by the parish of Cupar, on the south by Monimail, on the west by Criech, and on the north by Kilmeny. Like the greater part of the north side of Fife, it presents a varied surface of hill and dale. To the west, there are several beautiful rising grounds of no great height, which descend with a gentle slope to the east, and terminate in a valley of considerable extent. Its elevation above the level of the sea may be about 300 feet. The only stream worth mentioning, Moonzie Burn, takes its rise from Lordscairnie Myre, and after winding its way through several parishes to the eastward, falls into the Eden, near the Inner Bridge.

In the farm of Lordscairnie, there was formerly a loch, or myre of considerable extent, nearly two miles long, and in some places about a quarter of a mile broad. About forty years ago it was drained at considerable expense, and converted into arable ground. By paring and burning the surface of the soil, many excellent crops of oats and turnips were at first procured. But its fertility is now much diminished, and its produce greatly lessened. An attempt was made several years ago to dry the moss more completely, by deepening the former drains, and excavating the rock at the point where the water flows out, and it was supposed that this would renew the soil, and render it more productive. It has only, however, been

partially successful. The crops are still scanty and uncertain, and sometimes hardly defray the expense of cultivation. When employed in draining the loch, the labourers found many large oak trees deeply imbedded in the soil, and in a good state of preservation, and some are still discovered when they are ploughing the ground, and digging for marl. Many deers' heads, with splendid branching horns, in a petrified state, were also dug out of the moss, and were eagerly sought after by the lovers of natural history, to adorn their museums. Under the moss, about two or three feet from the surface, there lies a bed of excellent shell-marl. It varies in thickness in different places from one to three feet. It has been employed with great success in fertilizing the soil of the adjacent country. Great quantities have been raised at different periods, and employed with advantage, as an ingredient in compost dunghills, and as a top-dressing for pasture ground, and in some cases it has been applied to a naked fallow like lime.

*Geology.\**—The parish of Moonzie comprehends the summits and slope of three connected elevations, shutting up the west end of a valley extending east about two miles, by about a mile and a-half broad. On the west these elevations are connected by a neck of high land with the declivity of Norman Law, and consequently form an offset from the line of high lands formed by the Ochil and Campsie hills. Observations in the neighbourhood of Cupar, near the line and level of the Eden's bed, as well as those made near the Tay in the opposite direction, give every reason to believe that the trap rocks, of which alone the surface of the parish is formed, rest upon that series to which the name of red sandstone or old red sandstone is given, forming the floor of all the Fife, and I believe, of all Scottish coal fields.

Whether these rocks are to be considered as contemporaneous with the red sandstone and subordinate to it, as some theorists contend; or as having been forced up and overflowing these rocks at a subsequent period by the action of internal fire, it is impossible, from any appearances discovering themselves here, to conjecture. The hills are generally rounded, and covered with soil to the summits; and the trap of the vicinity only shows a tendency to the columnar form in the rock of Craigfoodie hill, which affords a picturesque termination to the distant view down the valley to the eastward. Beds of trap tufa and boulders, crumbling down in layers

\* For the few remarks on the geology of the parish, I am indebted to George Govan, Esq.



from the surface, contribute much to enrich the soil, which, in many places, might at first seem sterile from its proximity to the rock.

At some places, amygdaloid is to be found containing balls of agate or Scotch pebble in concentric layers.

The only exception to the rocky material constituting the surface of the parish is from the presence of those masses, often many tons in weight, rounded and water-worn, of which I noticed one lately on the side of the road near Colluthie. The parent rock of all these, which is numerous on many other moors in Fifeshire, I need hardly observe, is far to the north-west.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Sibbald, in his *History of Fife*, seems to be of opinion that Moonzie was early visited with the light of the Gospel. He relates that St Regulus, in the fourth century, having landed at St Andrews, and formed a Christian establishment there, travelled through the country, and built several wooden churches in different places,—one of them at Monechata or Monichi, which he thinks was the parish called Moonzie. Jameson, in his *History of the Culdees*, asserts that Sibbald is mistaken in this opinion, and, from the similarity of the names, concludes that Monechata or Monichi must be understood to be Monikie in Angus. But when we reflect on the great changes which the names of places undergo in the course of time, we see no reason in this case to consider Sibbald's interpretation either incorrect or improbable. In a list given by Sibbald of the churches and chapels in Fife in the reign of William the Lion, "Moonzey" is included.

*Land-owners.*—The greater part of the parish, consisting of the farms of Moonzie, Lordscairnie, Torr, and Bridgend belongs to the Earl of Glasgow, who succeeded to this property lately on the death of Lady M. L. Craufurd. The estate of Colluthie is the joint property of Messrs John and Henry Inglis. The estate of Moonzie or Lordscairnie came into the possession of the Craufurd family at a very early period. Sir David Lindsay, the seventh of the family after their settlement in Scotland, and who was one of the *Magnates Scotiæ* who signed the celebrated letter to Pope John, asserting the independence of Scotland in the time of Robert Bruce, was the first of the family who possessed the property. He married Mary, one of the co-heiresses of Sir Alexander de Abernethy, and received along with her the estates of Cairnie, Dunbog, and Country hills in Fife, besides other lands in other counties.\* Sibbald, in his *History of Fife*, mentions that they

\* Reg. Mag. Sig. 36.

acquired this estate in the reign of James IV. in consequence of Alexander Lindsay, sixth Earl of Craufurd, marrying Dumbar, heiress of Moonzie. But for this statement he produces no authority, and it is disproved by existing records. "Sir David Lindsay gave, on the 19th of November 1355, a donation of six pounds of wax yearly out of his lands of Cairnie, to the abbot and convent of Lindores, for finding a burning taper every day that mass is celebrated in the choir of their church, at his sepulchre, which was confirmed by charter granted by David II. on 3d August 1364."\*

*Eminent Men*—In the Craufurd family there were many individuals who were distinguished for their talents, their bravery, and for the high situations which they occupied in the government of the country. Alexander the third Earl of Craufurd, who lived in the reign of James II. was a man of singular character and habits. From the fierceness and cruelty of his temper and his undaunted courage, he was surnamed the "Tiger," and, from his long black bushy beard, he received the appellation of Earl Beardie. Though a great part of his property and his principal residence were in Angus, it is generally understood that he resided occasionally in Fife. He is said to have built the castle of Lordscairnie, in the parish of Moonzie, and this account is confirmed by its being called Earl Beardie's castle to this day. It is a large and lofty building, being 54 feet in length, and 40 in breadth over walls, and four stories high. The walls are nearly 6 feet thick, are composed of every kind of stones, and bound together by the strongest cement. The ground floor, it is likely, was occupied with kitchen and cellars, and the second with the great baronial hall. It is now in a very dilapidated state. The outward walls or shell of the castle still remains, but the roof and floors are entirely gone, and even the ribs of the windows and the corner-stones of the building have disappeared. The tenants of the estate, who were formerly in the habit of making a quarry of the castle to obtain stones for building houses or dikes, are now very properly prohibited by their leases from making any farther encroachment upon it. There was formerly a wall of considerable height and thickness round the castle, called the "rampart wall," including several acres of ground, and having towers on it at some distance from each other. A part of this wall on the north existed till within these few years, and one of the towers still remains. From the construction of this tower, it had evidently been a place of de-



fence, and is supposed to have been near the gate which formed the principal entrance to the castle. Within the memory of some individuals in the parish, there was another tower to the north of the castle, which contained an oven, and had been devoted to culinary purposes.

The castle is situated on a gently rising ground, and in ancient times, before Lordscairnie Myre was drained, in the midst of which it is placed, must have been surrounded with water, and nearly inaccessible.

This celebrated member of the Craufurd family was strongly imbued with the factious and turbulent spirit of the age in which he lived. He was engaged in frequent bloody disputes with the nobility and gentry of his neighbourhood, and on all occasions he displayed great ferocity and courage. Near Arbroath, he defeated the Ogilvies, a powerful family in Angus, in a pitched battle; and after having slaughtered them in great numbers, plundered their houses, wasted their lands, and made captives their wives and children. Like many of the feudal barons of those days, he not only quarrelled with his neighbours and equals, but rebelled against the authority of his sovereign. He entered into a league with the Earl of Douglas and the Lord of the Isles, two of the most powerful nobles of the kingdom, to dethrone James II. and subvert his government. Lord Huntly, a nobleman of great talent and bravery, was employed by his sovereign to put down this unjust and unnatural rebellion. Having collected a respectable army, he attacked Craufurd, who was posted with his forces in a moor near Brechin, and, after an obstinate struggle, totally defeated him. Not long after this humiliating defeat, Craufurd, through the influence of Huntly, made his peace with the King. While James was travelling through Angus, receiving the homage of his subjects, Craufurd suddenly presented himself before the King, clothed in mean apparel, with his head and feet bare, and attended by a few miserable-looking ragged servants, and throwing himself on his knees, he humbly confessed his guilt and implored forgiveness. The King, moved by his penitence and professions of attachment, and persuaded by the entreaties of his barons, mercifully pardoned his treasons, and generously restored him the lands and titles which he had justly forfeited by his rebellious conduct. Craufurd appears to have been deeply affected by the kindness and lenity of his sovereign. He accompanied James in his tour through the country, entertained him

most splendidly in his castle at Finhaven, and was ever afterwards a faithful and obedient subject. He did not long survive his reconciliation with the King. In about six months after, he was seized with a fever, which carried him off in a few days. He died in 1454, and was buried in the Grayfriars' Church of Dundee.

Another distinguished individual belonging to the parish was Sir William Ramsay of Colluthie. He lived in the reign of David II., King of Scotland, and was renowned both for his wisdom and bravery. He was present at the fatal battle of Durham in 1346, in which the Scottish army was totally routed, and, along with many of the nobility and gentry, was unfortunately taken prisoner. After his liberation from captivity, he, with a great number of his countrymen, entered into the service of the King of France, and fought against the English, who were then threatening the subjugation of that country. At the celebrated battle of Poitiers in 1356, where the Scottish auxiliaries behaved with the utmost bravery, and suffered most severely, he had again the misfortune to be taken prisoner. On the evening after the battle, he displayed great address and sagacity in accomplishing the deliverance of Archibald Douglas, a man of high rank, and an eminent Scottish warrior, who had fallen into the hands of the English. When the prisoners were assembled, Douglas was found arrayed in armour of the most splendid description, and it was concluded by his conquerors that he was a man of noble birth, and a most valuable prize. Ramsay, who was present, declared in the most positive terms that Douglas, instead of being a nobleman, was a mean fellow; some servant who had either stolen the armour of his master, or taken it from his body. He abused him in the grossest terms; commanded him to pull off his boots, and beat him with one of them most unmercifully. To all this injurious treatment, Douglas, who saw his design, submitted without murmur or reply. Ramsay having thus lulled the suspicions of the English asleep, paid forty shillings for his ransom, and thus enabled him to escape from captivity, and perhaps from death. Sir William Ramsay was connected with some of the first families in Scotland. In consequence of marrying Isabel Countess of Fife, daughter of Duncan, last Earl of Fife, he was invested with the Earldom by King David II. It has been asserted, that he had a right to this title by blood; but this account is not established by satisfactory evidence. He received



the title as a mark of favour from his sovereign, and, dying without issue, it returned to the Crown. The old house of Colluthie is said to have been built by Sir William. But this is bestowing an antiquity on it to which it has no just claim, and which is only supported by the most vague tradition. The house is a small plain building, remarkable only for the thickness of its walls and some arched doors and windows. It was long much neglected, and nearly uninhabitable, but it has been lately repaired by its present proprietor, Mr J. Inglis, at considerable expense, and may now accommodate a respectable family.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial registers are not of ancient date. The first entry in the minute-book is on November 6th 1693. Baptisms were first recorded in 1713, and marriages in 1769. Since 1821, births and baptisms, as well as marriages and deaths, have been regularly recorded.

*Antiquities.*—When the church was repaired in 1821, there was found in the east end of it a coffin containing some human bones in a mouldering state, and a thigh-bone in good preservation. The side-stones of the coffin consisted of two long sandstones, and the bottom of Dutch square bricks. The upper stone, or cover, on which there is often an inscription, had, it is likely, been removed at some early period, but on one of the side-stones there was cut out the figure of a sword, indicating that the person who had been entombed there had been a soldier or warrior. It is probable that he belonged to the Craufurd family, who had large property in the parish, and were generally military men.

Several years ago, when some labourers were casting a ditch on the west side of the farm of Moonzie, they discovered several stone coffins near the surface of the ground. From the rude materials of which they were composed, and the exposed situation in which they were placed, they do not appear to have contained the ashes of the illustrious dead, but to have been the repositories of some ignoble individuals. Some coins have been found in different places of the parish, but none of any importance either from their antiquity or intrinsic value.

### III.—POPULATION.

The return to Dr Webster in 1755, was	271
1793, .	171
1831, .	188
1841, .	174

The population of the parish was formerly much greater than it is at present.

Different causes appear to have operated in producing this decrease. About fifty or sixty years ago, the farms in this country were generally of small extent, and much more numerous than at present. Ample employment and maintenance were thus afforded to many families, and the population of the country parishes consequently great. But the farms are now generally of large extent and few in number, and though laboured much more skilfully and perfectly than formerly, the number of cultivators is much diminished. It was also the practice of the farmers in these times to lease out to each of their cottars, and to those who had houses on the farm, two or three acres of land at a moderate rent, and to give it the requisite cultivation. They also allowed them to keep cows, and provided them with grass in the summer and straw in the winter, for their maintenance. These privileges were highly valued by the people, and contributed much to their comfort and advantage. From the produce of their land and dairy, they had abundance of plain food for the maintenance of themselves and families; and in seasons of sickness, when unable for their daily labour, they could subsist for a time on their own means without being forced to apply for public aid. But this practice has been discontinued, and none even of the farm-servants enjoy the advantage of a cow except the Foreman. In consequence of this change, the people of the country who were tradesmen, seeing that they enjoyed none of the comforts of the country, left the habitations of their fathers, and established themselves in the towns from which their employment was principally derived. This desertion has produced in many parishes a paucity of labourers for field work, particularly for the green crop husbandry, which has been rapidly increasing for some time past, and is now carried on to a great extent.

The yearly average of births for the last seven years is,	5
deaths,	3
marriages,	2
Average number of persons under 15 years of age,	79
between 15 and 30,	39½
30 and 50,	39
50 and 70,	16
upwards of 70,	9

There are only three proprietors of land in the parish, and none of them reside in it. The income of each is upwards of L. 50.





The Teeswater or short-horned breed from England was introduced here some years ago, and is still highly esteemed by some agriculturists. The principal advantage of this breed consists in their capability of being made fat when only two years of age. But, notwithstanding this recommendation, it is now beginning to be less esteemed, and to give way either to the Fife or dodded cattle of Angus.

There is only one tenant in the parish who keeps a breeding stock of sheep on his farm. They are a mixture of the Leicester and Cheviot. He has lately got some ewes of the Dorsetshire breed, which are of large size and horned, and produce lambs twice a-year. A six years' rotation is the mode of cropping generally adopted. 1. Fallow or green crop; 2. wheat; 3. pease or beans; 4. barley with grass seeds; 5. grass cut or pastured; 6. oats.

The tenants in this parish enjoy particular advantages in regard to their leases. These extend in general to twenty-five years, and include no restrictions of an oppressive nature.

The farm steadings of the principal tenants are of a superior kind, built upon the most approved plans, and affording every necessary accommodation. As a proof of the spirit of enterprize and improvement which exists amongst us, it may be mentioned that, though there are only four thrashing-mills in the parish, two of these are driven by steam.

The soil is every year changing its appearance and becoming more productive. A laudable spirit of rivalry prevails amongst the farmers, and leads them to adopt every improvement which may benefit the land as well as promote their own interest.

*Produce.*—Amount of raw produce raised in the parish :

Produce in grain 4000 bolls,	.	.	.	L. 4000
Stock sold annually,	.	.	.	700
Dairy,	.	.	.	100
Potatoes,	.	.	.	100
				<hr/>
				L. 4900

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town.*—Cupar, which is about three miles distant, is the nearest market-town. Every article of country produce finds there a ready sale and a good price. There are several small collections of houses in the parish which hardly deserve the names of villages. They are the residences of the agricultural labourers belonging to the different farms, and of a few tradesmen. There has been no inn in the parish for many years.



*Means of Communication.*—The nearest post-office is Cupar. The turnpike road leading from Cupar to Newburgh, and extending to one mile and 1400 yards, lies along the south boundary of the parish. A statute labour road of one mile and 500 yards connects the Newburgh road on the south with the great Dundee road on the north. There is, beside, a private farm road which goes through the middle of the parish.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church of Moonzie is situated on a rising ground in the south-west part of the parish, and is easily accessible to all the population. It is a small plain building, without spire or other ornament. From its elevated position, it forms a conspicuous object from the Newburgh road, and enjoys the name of the Visible Kirk, from being a landmark to mariners entering the Tay. It has all the marks of an old building, but the time of its erection is unknown. It was lately repaired and new seated; and though not possessed of any external beauty, is now a comfortable place of worship. It has accommodation for 171 sitters. All the sittings are free.

The church and teinds of the parish of Moonzie belonged at one time to a religious fraternity at Scotland Well, in Kinross-shire, called the Ministers of the Fratres Sanctæ Trinitatis de Redemptione Captivorum. William Malvoisin, Bishop of St Andrews, who died in 1238, was the founder of this institution, and set apart the teinds of the parish of Moonzie for its support. Its design was to show hospitality to religious pilgrims, and collect money for the redemption of Christians who had been taken captives by the Turks. The brethren of the ministry performed the spiritual duties of the parish, and continued to act in that capacity till the Reformation. In 1564, the parish of Moonzie was united to that of Cupar; but, in 1625, it was disjoined and again made a separate parish, and Mr James Wedderburn admitted minister.

*List of Ministers since the Reformation.*—William Grey, reader, admitted 1576; Mr James Wedderburn, admitted 1625, died 1661; Mr J. Wedderburn, Yo., admitted 2d September 1659, deposed 1662; Mr James Forsyth, 1664; Mr David Bayne, 1675; Mr James Ross, outed 1689; Mr Andrew Young, admitted November 21, 1693, died 1699; Mr William Myles, admitted September 12, 1700; Mr Archibald Myles, admitted September 4, 1739; Mr David Burn, admitted July 24, 1755; Mr Robert Swan, admitted August 9, 1770; Mr Andrew Ireland,

admitted March 16, 1777 ; the present incumbent, admitted September 3, 1807.

The manse was built about thirty-six years ago, and, though in tolerable repair, is small and inconvenient, and far inferior in point of accommodation to the manses in the neighbourhood. The glebe consists of fifteen acres, and may be worth L.30 per annum. The stipend is L.177, 18s. 8½d. in money, and 7 bolls, 3 firlots, 1 peck, 3½ lippies meal, and 3 bolls, 3 firlots, 2 pecks, 3½ lippies barley.

Forty-one families attend the Established Church ; two families are Dissenters. 140 persons at an average attend public worship in the parish church each Lord's day. There are eight Dissenters who go to different churches in Cupar. The average number of communicants for the last seven years, is 110. The average amount of church collections yearly for religious and charitable objects is L.3, 10s.

*Education.*—There is only one school, the parochial. It is situated in the centre of the parish, and is attended by about 60 scholars. The present teacher has officiated in that capacity for upwards of forty years with great credit to himself, and much to the advantage of the youth in the neighbourhood. His legal salary is only L.30 per annum ; but the heritors lately, sensible of his merit, raised it to the maximum during his life. No perquisites of any kind are allowed. The fees in all do not exceed L.14 per annum. The school-room is of sufficient size, but the ceiling is low, which makes it uncomfortable for the young people during the heat of summer. The teacher's house is small, and would require both repair and enlargement.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons receiving parochial aid is 4. Some receive 2s., others 1s. 6d. or 1s. per week, according to their circumstances. The annual amount of collections at the church doors for relief of the poor is L. 2, 14s. 7½d. ; rent of land, L. 35 ; seat rent in Cupar church, 16s. ; total, L. 38, 10s. 7½d. It will be seen from this statement, that the principal fund for the support of the poor is derived from land. Six acres of land were purchased by the session of Moonzie in the parish of Cupar, about the middle of last century, at a low price. They were enabled to do this, in consequence of a legacy left them by the last Episcopal curate of the parish, and from the savings of their collections. From the rent stated, there falls to be deducted various bur-



dens, which considerably lessen its amount, such as minister's stipend in Cupar, repairs of church and manse, bridge, and rogue money, bishop's rents, as well as beadle, precentor's, and session-clerk's salary. The funds, however, have proved sufficient for the maintenance of the poor, and no application has been made to the heritors for any assistance. The poor evince a laudable spirit of independence, and the funds have generally been employed for the support of the aged and infirm.

*Fuel.*—The fuel commonly used is coal, either English coal brought from Newburgh or Balmerino, or Scots coal from Balbirnie or Dysart. The price varies according to the demand, and has been higher for these two last years than formerly. A single horse cart-load at Dysart, where they are cheapest, and which contains 12 cwt., costs 3s. 3d. To this there is to be added, tolls and carriage, which will amount at least to as much more. English coal are sold at Newburgh at from 4s. 6d. to 5s. the boll of 6 cwt.

*January 1843.*

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## PARISH OF SALINE.\*

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name is supposed to be Gaelic, signifying *a hill or mountain*,—referring to a hill in the parish called Saline Hill.

*Extent, &c.*—The parish is seven miles long from east to west, and six broad at the centre from south to north. The eastern part, embracing nearly one-half of the surface, is hilly and marshy,—the western part level.

*Soil, &c.*—The soil is, in general, thin and of a tilly bottom. There are large tracks of moss which yield excellent peat. The parish abounds with coal, lime, and ironstone.

### II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Parochial Registers.*—The records of the kirk-session commence

\* From notes furnished by Mr A. D. Robertson, parochial schoolmaster of Saline.

in 1704, and have been regularly kept ever since. The register of births and baptisms begins in 1696, and seems to have been pretty regularly kept up to this time. There are no registrations of marriages till 1765, since which time they have been regularly kept.

*Land-owners.*—The principal land-owners, with their respective valuations, are as follows :

The Trustees of Sir Robert Preston,	. . .	L. 669	2	8
Mr Beveridge of Inzievar,	. . .	606	0	0
Mr Aytoun of Killerney.	. . .	566	0	0
Mr Erskine of Under Kinneddar,	. . .	402	0	0
Mr Oliphant of Upper Kinneddar,	. . .	394	8	0
Mr Telfer of Balgonar,	. . .	203	0	0
Mr Hogg of Bandrum,	. . .	146	0	0

*Mansion-Houses, &c.*—These are, Kinneddars, Inzievar, Hill-side, Bandrum, Balgonar, Kirklands, Rhynds, and Oakley.

*Antiquities.*—There are still the remains visible in this parish of two old towers, some cairns, and two Roman camps.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	. . .	945
1811,	. . .	1072
1821,	. . .	1123
1831,	. . .	1139
1841,	. . .	1057
Number of inhabitants in the village,	. . .	400
in the country,	. . .	657
Illegitimate children, last three years,	. . .	5

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Rent.*—Average rent of land per acre, L.1, 10s. Real rent of the parish about L.6000.

The more recent agricultural improvements have been in draining, which for some years has been carried on to a great extent.

Valued rent, L.4078, 19s. 4d. Scots.

### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The village of Saline is beautifully situated. It consists of small feus held of the family of Torrie.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—All the families in the parish except four belong to the Established Church. The present minister, who enjoys a green old age, and his predecessor, have one after the other filled the cure upwards of 113 years.

The amount of stipend is L.150, of which L.63 is paid from the funds of the Exchequer. The glebe is six acres in extent; value, L.2 per acre. The manse was built about forty-nine years ago, and both it and the offices are in a miserable state.

*Education.*—The number of schools in the parish, exclusive of Sabbath schools, is two. Yearly amount of parochial school-mas-



ter's salary, L.34, 4s. 5d.; school-fees, L.40, 10s.; other emoluments, L.7, 10s.

*Poor.*—Average number of poor, 16. Average sum given annually to each, L.3, 18s., and a cart-load of coals in winter. Average annual amount of contributions for do. L.68, of which L.36 is from collections at the church-door, and the remainder from donations, &c. There has never been any legal assessment for the poor.

1842.

## PARISH OF KINGHORN.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. FERGUS JARDINE, A. M., MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name Kinghorn is evidently formed of two old British or Celtic words, *cyn* (*kin*), and *quern* or *gern*, which signify the “head of the spouty land, or land of springs,”—this being descriptive of the position and locality of the town, which is built upon the bend and acclivity of the ground formed by the Bay of Kinghorn. Behind the rising ground upon which the town stands, there is a loch of considerable extent, which sends forth a stream that intersects the town; and there are various myres or marshes, two of which are called the Easter and Wester Myres, which contribute their respective rivulets to mark the boundary of the old burgh.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish extends over a little more than 8 square miles. Its greatest length is  $4\frac{3}{4}$  miles, and its greatest breadth is about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles. It is bounded on the east and north by Abbotshall; on the north and west, by Auchtertool and Aberdour; on the west, by Burntisland; and on the south and south-east, it is washed by the Frith of Forth. It has somewhat the shape of an awkwardly formed eight figure, from portions of Abbotshall and Burntisland running into it on the east and west. It is beautifully diversified both in its marine and interior outline. The ground rises in some places abruptly, and in others gradually from the shore, and the alternations of hill and valley, of finely

cultivated fields and narrow straths, watered by some small rivulets, continue to ascend till the whole is surmounted by the Hill of Glassmount, about two-and-a-half miles from the shore. This hill is the highest ground in the parish, being 601 feet above the level of the sea. Northwards from it, there is a greater equality of surface, although in some places the rich arable fields are varied by beautiful knolls and gentle swellings of the ground, with occasional patches of table-land. This stretch of the parish is bounded and embellished by the finely wooded hill on which the mansion-house of Raith is built, the property of Colonel Fergusson.

Nor is the coast less diversified. From its junction with Burntisland parish on the west, to its termination on the east with Abbots-hall, where the Tiel Burn empties itself into the sea, the extent along the shore cannot be less than four miles. Along this, there is much to attract the geologist, and gratify the lover of the picturesque. Near the Burntisland boundary, there is a lofty overhanging cliff, marked at one spot with the melancholy name of the "*King's wud end*," in reference to the event to be afterwards noticed. Onwards to the harbour of Pettycur, the shore is of a fine level sand. The coast then becomes bold and rugged. The trap rock has here assumed a columnar form, and its immense fragments, as they have become separated from the columnar masses, lie in endless confusion on the shore. They form the headland called Kinghorn Ness, where, towards the east, the bay of Kinghorn opens. From this point, the bay is formed by a curve of about a quarter of a mile in extent, till, on the east, it terminates in the Kirk-craig,—a bold projection of rock which runs from the churchyard a considerable distance into the sea, and forms a natural break-water or shelter to the old harbour of Kinghorn, which was built on that side of the bay. Beyond this, the shore is beautifully diversified, and the action of the tide has, in many places, laid bare the stratified rocks which are found pervading this part of Fife. About a mile to the east of Kinghorn, a cave of considerable size presents itself, with its dark mouth looking out upon the sea, and guarded on each side by two bold projecting rocks. This is the only natural cavern along this shore. There is, at a small distance from it, a curious excavation of earth, formed by an attempt to work the limestone which is found here.

*Meteorology.*—The following table, as taken from the meteorological journal, kept at Inchkeith by the present intelligent keeper



of the light-house there, shows the state of the atmosphere during the year 1841 :—

Monthly average during the year 1841.\*

	Thermometer taken at		Barometer taken at		Rain-guage at 9 A.M.
	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	9 A.M.	9 P.M.	
January,	34.7	34.25	29.18	29.15	.58
February,	37.17	38.26	29.10	29.8	1.47
March,	44.4	45.10	29.28	29.17	.96
April,	44.19	43.26	29.20	29.19	1.02
May,	51.8	50.17	29.22	29.24	1.16
June,	52.5	51.9	29.24	29.23	1.76
July,	54.6	53.20	29.20	29.19	3.12
August,	56.11	55.4	29.21	29.23	4.65
September	61.23	61.22	29.19	29.18	2.24
October,	46.1	46.13	29.13	29.12	4.87
November	47.1	41.9	29.15	29.11	2.04
December,	40.10	40.25	29.12	29.11	2.41
Rain in inches,					26.28

*Climate.*—The town and parish of Kinghorn are remarkably healthy. The town is situated on a dry bed on the side of the brae, with an abundance of rivulets rushing down the declivities to carry away at once, into the sea, everything that might otherwise lie to oppress the atmosphere with unhealthy vapours. Old age finds here a healthy resting-place. Several persons in it at present are upwards of ninety years of age.

*Hydrography.*—There are various springs of excellent quality in and around Kinghorn. One of these, about half a mile to the westward on the shore, has long been known for its medicinal qualities. The celebrated Dr Anderson, of pill notoriety, and physician to Charles I., wrote a treatise on this water in 1618, and recommended its use for allaying inflammations, external and internal, and for removing difficulty in breathing and other maladies. It is impregnated, he says, with crystal, gypsum, and nitre, and acts as a powerful diuretic, while it produces the most invigorating effects upon debilitated constitutions. This he was enabled to state from observation, as he attended patients while using it, and gave directions in what manner the most salutary effects might be obtained from it. It is to be lamented, that the efficacy of this formerly noted spa has not been sufficiently appreciated of late years.

Kinghorn Loch lies a little to the north-west of the town. It covers a surface of twenty acres, is thirty feet deep, and is embosomed amid finely undulating hills. The inhabitants have an abundant supply of water from it, by pipes laid through the streets.

\* The rain-guage at Inchkeith is not the most accurate, on account of the position of the guage, and the winds which prevail on the island.

Three spinning-mills have been built on the margin of the stream which flows from it to the sea.

*Geology.*—The parish is situated among the coal measures. Where the rocks are stratified, they consist of alternations of limestone, sandstone, shale, and coal. The beds of limestone have been wrought in several places, and have been found of excellent quality. They are of salt-water formation, and the petrifications, which they contain in abundance, are those common to the coal-fields, being chiefly encrinites, terebratulites, and madrepores. The substance of the limestone of one of the strata, as Invertiel quarry, is almost wholly fragments of encrinites, and, when cut and polished, serves as a beautiful material for mantel-pieces and other interior works. It is probable, that some small patches of fresh-water limestone may also be found in the parish, as a rock of this kind appears near the eastern boundary of the neighbouring parish of Burntisland. Some of the sandstone beds produce building materials of good quality; but there seems to be none of great thickness, or of the sort called liver-rock. There is nothing remarkable in the shales, further than that there is said to be a good fire-clay situated near the coal-bed. The single bed of coal is about five feet thick; but if oral report may be credited, it was wrought out, in former times, to a depth of 100 feet, but there are no authentic accounts extant regarding it. The wastes are full of water. The bearing of the stratified rocks, where they are least disarranged, is northerly, and the coal-bed seems to be the lowermost one of the extensive coal-fields stretching from this parish eastward to Largo.

These stratified rocks occupy only a small extent in the north-eastern part of the parish; the remaining part is composed mostly of a large outburst of trap rock, which extends to a considerable distance through the neighbouring parishes to the west, but which contains here and there patches of stratified rocks. The unstratified rock is chiefly greenstone, or, as it is more commonly termed here, whinstone. Its basaltic appearance at Kinghorn ness, and along the shore to Pettycur harbour, has already been alluded to. It has there a rudely crystallized form. The greenstone rock is of various qualities, some of it being quite friable, while at other places it is very hard and tough, and forms excellent road materials. The boundary of the trap rock is exceedingly irregular, and has never yet been exactly traced out. It is probable that large parts of it are overlaying the stratified rocks.



Where the rocks are laid bare by the action of the tide on the beach, many features interesting to the geologist may be seen. There is a fine specimen of a trap dike separating the strata, and lifting one side three or four feet, which may be seen at low water near an old limekiln, about half a mile to the eastward of Kinghorn, and there is a sandstone rock situated opposite Abden House, a little to the east of the churchyard, which, within a space of 150 or 200 feet, changes gradually from sandstone to quartz rock. There are also specimens, in different parts of the parish, of portions of coal, and shaley strata, being included among the unstratified rocks, and in their burnt or changed appearance presenting plain marks of the action of heat.

The soil along the shore, and to a considerable extent northwards, is formed from the trap rock, of a dark deep loam, and is equal to the richest strath land in any part of Scotland.

*Botany.*—The following is a list of the rarer indigenous plants in the parish of Kinghorn:—

<i>Hippuris vulgaris</i>	<i>Ligusticum Meum</i>	<i>Thlaspi arvense</i>
<i>Utricularia minor</i>	<i>Vaccinium Oxycoccus</i>	<i>Cardamine amara</i>
<i>Schoenus rufus</i>	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	<i>Fumaria capreolata</i>
<i>Primula elatior</i>	<i>Potentilla verna</i>	<i>Orchis viridis</i>
<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	<i>Euphorbia exigua</i>	<i>Listera ovata</i>
<i>Polemonium caruleum</i>	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	—— cordata
<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	<i>Sparganium natans</i>
<i>C. glomerata</i> , var. <i>alba</i>	<i>Trollius Europæus</i>	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
<i>Viola odorata</i>	<i>Stachys arvensis</i>	<i>Lycopodium Selaginoides</i>
<i>Chironia centaurium</i> var. <i>alba</i>	<i>Antirrhinum cymbalaria</i>	<i>Polypodium Dryopteris</i>
	<i>Orobanchæ rubra</i> *	

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The town of Kinghorn was of such importance as early as David I., that that monarch conferred upon it the privileges of a royal burgh. This grant was confirmed by Alexander III. It was long distinguished by a royal residence; Glamis Castle or Tower, which stood upon the rising ground that overlooks the town. While royalty had its residence here, it is natural to suppose that it attracted many distinguished individuals to live at Kinghorn; and hence we find, in the charters granted by William the Lion (1171), the names of William de Mortimer, Galfred de Malleville† and others “*ap. Kingorn*,” as witnesses to the deeds, along with the Bishop of Dunkeld and the Chancellor

\* This plant has hitherto only been found in one spot in Ireland, on rocks in the Island of Hoy, and at Seafeld in this parish. It has no leaves, and hardly any root. It is about six or eight inches high, and the whole plant is of a rich red-brown, somewhat viscid to the touch, and of a sweet smell.

† Is not this Galfred de Malleville the ancestor of the Melvilles of Raith and Kinghorn, and whose representative is the present Earl of Leven and Melville?

of Scotland.\* This ancient residence passed from the Kings of Scotland, in the reign of Robert II., into the hands of Sir John Lyon, as a dowery to his wife, Janet Stuart, daughter of Queen Ada Mure and of that monarch, who disposed the property to that knight “*cum domino de Kinghorn in liberum maritagium.*” The successors of that knight enjoyed first from James VI. the title of Earl of Kinghorn, 10th July 1606; but, it is said, that, from an awkward abbreviation of Kinghorn,† which the people were too ready to discover and apply,—the better sounding title of Strathmore, where much of his property lay, was bestowed on the family by Charles II.

The historical events connected with this parish are brief, but important. In the reign of Duncan I., whose fate is well known to every reader of the immortal Shakspeare, Canutus, King of Norway, sent a large fleet commanded by his brother, with 9000 men, who landed at Kinghorn, and plundered the adjacent country, till they were attacked and defeated with great slaughter by Macbeth, Thane of Fife. But the event of greatest importance to Scotland, connected with this parish, was the death of Alexander III. The greatness of that monarch's character—the importance of his life to Scotland at that period—the suddenness of his death—and the long and cruel wars in which Scotland was engaged with England, as well as the internal distractions of the kingdom, which his death occasioned, must ever render the spot where he met his death an object of deepest interest, and excite in the mind a host of bitter reflections. About a mile to the west of Kinghorn, the road from Inverkeithing at that time wound along a high cliff which rises abruptly, and almost perpendicularly from the level sand below to the height of about 150 feet. About forty feet up the side of this precipitous bank, there abuts a rock in the form of a wedge, now almost wholly covered with ivy, which marks the spot where the King was found. It received him in his sheer descent over the cliff above, where he was thrown from his horse, and prevented him from falling to the level shore below. This is the King's *wud* end, not *wood* end, as it has been sometimes erroneously called. Tradition is not the only testimony for the identity of this melancholy spot. A cross was soon after the event erected upon it to point out the place where the King was found. “Out upon

\* Carta Willelmi Regis de hospitali, &c.

† See Chambers's Gazetteer, Burgh of Kinghorn.



time," for it has long since defaced this interesting object; but it is to be hoped that it will be replaced by a monument becoming the event, and worthy of the taste and wealth of the present excellent proprietor of the property.\*

*Letters, &c.*—There is a curious letter in the possession of John Boswell, Esq., the proprietor of Balmuto, from James VI. to the laird of Balmuto, which throws some light on the occasional wants and character of that singular monarch.†

David Boswell, who lent the King the sum referred to in the document, was a talented and pious man. There is a fine portrait of him in Balmuto, in the attitude of studying the 12th Psalm, with his favourite adage, "it is ane guid sport to do weel." His son, Sir George Boswell, "chirurgion to the King's grace" and to Anne of Denmark, of whom it is stated in the receipt of the comptroller, that he was the bearer of the 1000 merks from his father to the King, was as much distinguished for his humility of mind and urbanity of manners, as for his professional skill. There is a good picture of him in Balmuto, in the quaint attitude of pointing to a skeleton, and on the back of the portrait verses are inscribed.

\* Mrs O. T. Bruce of Falkland. Her uncle, Professor Bruce, the former proprietor, is said to have long purposed to erect a monument on the King's wud end; and no point could be more befitting a colossal statue than the rock from which the King fell.

† The following is an exact copy.

"Trust freind, we greit you heartly weill. It is not unknown to you of this action we have presentlie in hands, quhilk is mair precipitant, because of the hastier arrivall of our dearest spouse than aithor we luckit for or can have any time to put order to the preparation thairof, as appertainis to our princely honor, qu<sup>ik</sup> appearandlie sal be very far engagit, except we find further favor at the handis of the men quhais freindship and guid affectionis we think ourselfs maist assured than we have fund be moyen of our counsell, or any gnll (general) course we have followit, aither be offering their landes in securitie, wadset, or othr wayes. The occasion quhairof we imput to the scarcetie of silver in thir quarters. And, thairfor, the assurance we have that you, in speall (special) of your guid affectionoun we knaw ye bear us, will raither hurt yrsel very far than see the dishonor of your prince and native country, with the povertie of beith set downe befor the face of strangers. We have retiret ourselfs apart frome or counsell, far by or accustomit maner, to travell particularlie with you upone quhome we have layed or count as ane of the first of or guidwillars, and to that effect hath sent the bearer, or servitr, towards you to desire of you the loan of a thousand marks in this or urgent necessitie, under sicke securitie as ye can best devise, quhairanent we have directit or said servitr particularlie, quham ye sall credit. Assuring you the mair we are straitit be this pnt (present) necessitie, qu<sup>ik</sup> having ane competent tyme we could have remedit, and spairit you further, the mair deeplie we will imprint the benifit kyndness ye will shaw us at this tyme above all those that ever we have recevait, or will recaive at any time hereafter. And thus com<sup>ts</sup> (committs) you to the Eternall, at Faulkland, ye second day of September 1589. (Signed) JAMES R—

Made up and folded as a letter, and addressed on the back,

To our right trust freind, ye Laird of Balmontou."

The comptroller's receipt for the loan has also been preserved.

*Eminent Characters.*—Besides those already mentioned, the family of Kirkcaldy of Grange—(a property now in the possession of Colonel Fergusson of Raith, about a mile to the north-east of Kinghorn,) demands honourable mention. It was not the extent of their property, but the great force of their character and splendour of their talents, which gave them such a prominent place in the history of James V. and during the regency of the ill-fated Mary. Sir James Kirkcaldy, who was Lord High Treasurer of Scotland during a part of the reign of James V., was considered one of the wisest and worthiest of the nation; and few achievements in war are more brilliant than those performed by Sir William Kirkcaldy, both at Stirling and Edinburgh, when, after the battle of Langside, he espoused the side of the incarcerated Queen. For his holding the castle of Edinburgh (of which he was governor) so long against the regent and the force sent by Elizabeth to reduce it, he, on surrendering, suffered death with his brother at the market-cross of Edinburgh, August 3, 1573.

Mr John Scrymgeour, a man remarkable for his piety and learning, was minister of Kinghorn, and was selected as chaplain to the King in 1590, when his Majesty sent to Denmark to bring home his Queen. He is enrolled among the Scottish Worthies on account of his refusal to subscribe the articles of Perth, and join the modified Episcopacy, which at that time was attempted to be introduced into the Scottish nation, and for which he was deprived of his living at Kinghorn, and obliged to retire to a small house he had in Auchterderran, where it is supposed he spent the remainder of his days.

In one of the old records of this parish, the signing of the national Covenant in 1590 is inserted, and the first name to the deed is that of Thomas Biggar, minister of the parish, and is followed in beautiful penmanship by John Boswall of Balmouto, and John Kirkcaldy of Grange. On an old stone, still entire in the churchyard, which had been erected by the Sailors' Community to the memory of Mr Thomas Biggar, we find that he died in 1601, about eleven years after the signing of the covenant. This is mentioned also in the session records of that period. He was succeeded by Mr John Moncrieffe, a man also of considerable eminence during those stormy periods of our ecclesiastical history. The accomplished scholar and gentleman, the late Professor Bruce, who held long the patent with Sir James Hunter Blair for printing the Bible



in Scotland, and was His Majesty's Secretary for Latin Records, had his patrimonial estate in this parish.\*

*Land-owners.*—The principal heritors of this parish are, the Earl of Rosslyn for the lands of Invertiel, Tyrie, South Piteadie, and South Glassmount; Colonel Fergusson of Raith for Easter and Wester Balbarton, Easter and Wester Bogleilly, Cauldhame, Seafield, Vicars-Grange, Grange, Baidland, and other lands; John Boswell, Esq. of Balmuto for the estate of Balmuto; Mrs O. T. Bruce for Grangehill and other lands; John Drysdale, Esq. for Kilrie and North Piteadie; the Trustees of the late Robert Philp, Esq. of Edenshead for Banchory, Drinkbetween, Justine lands, and other acres; the Trustees of the late BurrIDGE Purvis, Esq. for North Glassmount; Robert Stocks, Esq. for Abden; the Duke of Buccleuch for Inchkeith; Mr George Greig for Easter Balbeardie; the Trustees of the late Mr Greenhill for common of Kinghorn; Mr Shanks of Castlerigg for acres near Kinghorn, Glammis Tower, &c.; the burgh of Kinghorn for the Ross lands; and a few others whose property is very limited.

*Parochial Registers.*—The earliest register is of baptisms, commencing in 1577. The session records commence with some regularity in September 1607, yet there are earlier notices of the proceedings of the session. We find in one of the volumes, not only the parish signatures to the national covenant already noticed, but also a number of special reasons recorded for a general fast to be held as early as October 1593. The records of baptisms and marriages, and the proceedings of the kirk-session, are kept with much regularity and fulness from the close of the seventeenth century to the present time.

*Antiquities.*—The rage for modern improvements here has almost swept away every vestige of those ancient buildings in the town of Kinghorn which formerly distinguished it in its ecclesiastical and civil importance. St Leonard's Tower was the last remaining edifice of this nature, which, subsequent to the Reformation, was converted into a town-house and jail. It was a few years ago entirely removed for the erection of a handsome modern building as a town-house and prison. History, and not stone walls, must tell us what Kinghorn formerly was.—The very seals, (*Scot-ticé, selches*,) along the shore, now enjoy an absolute respite from the conditions of the charter granted by David I. to the Abbey of

\* Patie Birnie, the far-famed fiddler, ought not to be forgotten among the eminent characters belonging to Kinghorn.

Dunfermline, that every seventh one caught at Kinghorn should be sent to the ecclesiastics of that place.\*—Except a few human bones dug up in forming the foundation for the extension of St Leonard's spinning mill, nothing has of late years given any indication that that place was formerly consecrated ground.—Instead of the deep-toned vespers sounding for prayers from St Leonard's Tower, there is now heard the sharp and enlivening bell summoning the healthy light-hearted young people to the spinning manufactory.—The ploughshare passes uninterruptedly over the spot where stood the grim stately walls of Glamis Tower.

After Robert II. had given away this royal residence to Sir John Lyon and his successors, the Kings of Scotland still possessed a domicile in Kinghorn, to which they had recourse in crossing to Fife from Edinburgh. In the old orchard of Abden, there were not long ago removed the remains of a building, which tradition declared belonged to the King, and the road to which, from the shore or landing-place, was called the King's gate. This is countenanced by the fact, that the property of Abden belonged to the Crown; and in the ancient charter of this property, granted by Cardinal Beaton to Sir John Melville, there is a distinct reservation that the King, in crossing to Kinghorn, should enjoy free lodgings, and the hospitality of Abden at any time he should require it. And the crown charter confirming the same to the son, (the father having been executed for high treason and his lands confiscated,) shows that it continued Crown property, so that the Scottish monarchs had always a residence of one kind or other in Kinghorn. The present proprietor, Mr Stocks, possesses both charters,—the one by Cardinal Beaton has attached to it the seal of that ecclesiastical dignitary, as well as that of St Andrews; and he holds it under the same reservation which the Cardinal himself, and his immediate successors did. It is thus evident that royalty has still a right to this ancient privilege, a fact probably altogether unknown to the present interesting and beloved possessor of the throne of these realms.† There are several objects yet

\* The present incumbents of Dunfermline would fare but ill if they depended on any portion of this grant. Not a phoca is now sought after, for any purpose whatever.

† The words of the charter referring to the above reservation are, "*reservatis nobis nostrisque regiis successoribus in hujusmodi mansione hospitalitate et residentia toties quoties contigerit nobis ibidem supervenire et declinare quamdiu nobis placuerit seu visum fuerit nostris propriis sumptibus ac etiam pro solutione et præstatione nobis quæ cunque alia servitia et divoria quæ continentur in antiquis infeofamentis et rentalibus dictarum terrarum ac duplicans, dictam feudifirmam primo anno introitus cujuslibet hæredis ad dictam mansionis domum Greenbrae head, Parson's croft aliaque præfat iisdem spectan.*"



remaining in the parish of considerable interest to the antiquarian. Seafield tower presents a striking feature on the margin of the shore, resting on one side on a solid mass of red sandstone, and guarded on the other by the visible remains of a fosse and draw-bridge. This was the seat of an ancient family of the name of Moutrie. In the middle of a field belonging to the farm of Tyrie, there stands an old ruin, the gable of a building of no great extent, but which, from its name and human bones found around it, was most likely a chapel or place of public worship. The people call it Egsmalee, an evident corruption of Eglise Marie. Farther northwards, on the side of the hill of Piteadie, the old castle of that name is very entire in its ruins. This place was inhabited not more than an hundred years ago. It belongs to the Earl of Rosslyn, and has been in the family of the St Clairs for a long period. There are two obelisks of rough stones standing in a field to the west of North Glassmount House; (this place is called by Sibbald Boisvill-Glasmond,) supposed to have been erected immediately after the last battle which was fought between the Scots and Danes, to mark the spot where some of the Scottish commanders had fallen. A chapel had formerly been in existence in connection with this land. A field to the east of the house still bears the name of the Chapel-field, and it is not long since some of the ruins of the building were to be seen.

*Modern Buildings.*—Few places have undergone such a transformation during the last thirty years as Kinghorn. Its streets were then almost impassable, they are now levelled and well paved. Its public buildings were mean,—they are now good. The former town-house was an ancient ecclesiastical building, the present town house and jail is of Gothic architecture, which cost the burgh L. 2500. Notwithstanding, however, its beauty, strength, and cost, its jail can only now be used as a lock-up house, and it does not prevent the inhabitants of the burgh from being assessed for the erection of prisons in other parts of the county. The school-house was formerly a plain unpretending building; the school-house now, and the grounds adjoining would do honour to the metropolis. The spinning-mill adjoining the town house has undergone of late great improvements, and has been much enlarged. This improvement has taken place since it came into the possession of the present public spirited proprietors, the Messrs Swan of Kirkcaldy. Its extensive front, and well kept shrubbery, make it a great ornament to the place. The church is the only public

building, which remains in much the same state as it has done since 1774, when it was rebuilt.

*Mansion-Houses.*—Besides the house of Abden, a plain old grey building, situated on the east side of Kinghorn, and commanding a beautiful and extensive view of the Forth, the mansion-house of Balmuto is almost the only other building in the parish worthy of the name. Its square tower is of great antiquity, but the chief accommodation is of modern architecture. It is well sheltered by the finely wooded grounds immediately surrounding, and by the hills to the north and south. The flower garden and conservatory mark the taste of the proprietor.

### III.—POPULATION.\*

The population in 1755 was	2389
1793,	1768
1801,	2308
1811,	2204
1821,	2443
1831,	2579
1841,	2934
At the last census there were	1302 males—1632 females.
Inhabited houses,	409
Uninhabited do.,	14
Building,	2
Number of families,	675—about 4½ to each family.
In the town of Kinghorn,	1555
Landward and agricultural,	811
Village of West Bridge or Invertiel,	568

There are no resident heritors in this parish. Out of 675 families in the parish, about 610 belong to the labouring classes, leaving only 65, consisting of farmers, shopkeepers, and proprietors of houses, who cannot be classed among those who depend solely on their manual labour for subsistence.

The chief cause for the increase of the population since 1821, is the extension of the flax spinning mills, which has brought a considerable number of strangers to the place for employment. Females are chiefly employed in spinning, which accounts for the greater proportion of females above males in this place.

There are three or four fatuous persons in this parish, but none insane. There is one deaf and dumb.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The rental of the landward parish is about L.13,000.† There are about 4000 Scots acres, or 5030 imperial. Of these there are,

\* The population of this parish must have been as great at the close of the 16th century as it now is; for we find that the National Covenant has adhibited to it between 800 and 900 names—a considerable proportion of which were heads of families, and probably all of them communicants.

† By the last valuation, the gross rental of the heritable property in the parish and



Cultivated,	3660 Scots acres.
Uncultivated,	170
Planted,	170

Thirty-five acres may be advantageously cultivated, that are included in the 170 uncultivated.

*Produce.*—The produce of the parish may be stated as follows :

Scots acres.

800, oats, from 10 to 11 bolls per acre.

400, barley, from 7 to 9 do.

400, wheat, from 7 to 9 do.

400, turnips, L.6 to L.8 per acre, consumed on the farm.

325, potatoes, L.12 to L.14 per acre.

430, hay, L.6 per acre.

865, pasture, L.3, 10s. per acre.

40 occasionally cultivated.

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3660

*Rent.*—The rent of land in this parish varies from L.1, 10s. to L.6 per acre. The average is about L 3, 10s. per acre.

*Stock.*—There are few cattle reared in this parish. Those that are reared are of the Fife and short-horned breed, with crosses between them. Although there are few reared, yet a great number, brought from other counties, are fattened in this parish, and from the attention paid to their condition and appearance, frequently bring high prices, L.25 and L.30 being no uncommon price for them per head.

Much attention has of late been given to sheep feeding. A considerable number are now kept, chiefly half-bred Cheviot, and black-faced. These, like the cattle, are generally imported from other places.

Few parishes have undergone more improvements than this in draining and trenching, or can exhibit such an activity and attention in the application of all recent discoveries to bring the land to the highest state of cultivation and productiveness. The farm-buildings and inclosures are in general very good, and show both the good taste of the tenant, and the encouragement of the landlord. The duration of leases is nineteen years.

*Manufactures.*—The only manufacture carried on in Kinghorn is the spinning of flax. The raw material is imported, and it undergoes here all the processes from the dressing of the flax, up to the final preparation of the yarn and thread, for the loom and other purposes.

There is an extensive bleaching field at Nether Tyne, about

beyond the boundary line of the burgh, including feu-duties, is L.10,684, 5s. 9½d. The rental within the burgh boundary is about L.2000.

one and a-half mile to the eastward, belonging to the proprietors of St Leonard's mill, which enables them to prepare the thread and yarn in a purely white state for the market. These gentlemen employ daily at their mill 200 females, 54 males, flax-dressers, 21 mechanics, or machine-makers, and 12 males who superintend and have other duties in the mill. About 70 are employed in the bleaching of yarn. There are two other mills in Kinghorn, at both of which are employed about 130 females, and 50 males, including 36 flax-dressers. There are thus connected with the spinning mills, 330 females; 137 males; 70 of both sexes in the bleaching department; total, 537.

Girls above fourteen years of age, who are spinners, earn from 4s. to 6s. per week. Mechanics have from 12s. to L. 1 per week.

Flax-dressers are paid by the hundred-weight of dressed flax; they get a fair price for their work, and can make a good livelihood fully employed.

*Navigation.*—Except the steamers which ply on the ferry, between Pettycur and Newhaven, and a few half-tide boats of forty tons burden, which carry goods and cattle to and from Leith, there is only one—a coaster of about seventy tons burden, which now belongs to Kinghorn. Occasionally vessels of considerable burden land their flax cargoes from the Baltic, and other places at Pettycur harbour, and a few cargoes of potatoes are shipped annually there for the London market. There are a few small boats belonging to individuals in the town, which, during the summer months, are employed in fishing.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

There is no town in the parish except the burgh of Kinghorn. The population, as has been already stated, is 1555. Its trade has been diversified and fluctuating. While basking under the smiles of royalty, it had an ample business in supplying the necessary articles for the Court, and gentry, with their retainers. But when Glamis Castle began to decay, and the old nobility and gentry died out, or ceased to live upon their properties in the parish, a great change came over the affairs of Kinghorn. Still it possessed a constant and advantageous traffic from the proximity of Pettycur, which was the principal ferry between Fife and Mid-Lothian. In the absence of steamers and stage-coaches, the town was usually crowded with passengers, waiting for fair weather to allow the boats to set sail. The whole town on these occasions



was wont to be an inn; every house that could well accommodate strangers was in requisition; and the demand for saddle-horses was so great, that, in the recollection of some old men, not less than sixty belonged to Kinghorn. All this passed naturally away by the introduction of steamers on the ferry, and the establishment of stage-coaches, with all their expedition of conveyance and accuracy of hours. This deficiency of bustle and traffic in the town has been more than compensated by the erection of the spinning-mills, upon which the inhabitants now principally depend for employment and subsistence.

From the period when the privileges of a royal burgh were conferred upon Kinghorn by David I., it had been managed by a town-council and magistrates, up to Michaelmas 1841, when, upon the day on which, by the set of the burgh, or terms of its charter, the magistrates ought to have been chosen, a quorum could not be mustered, and in consequence of this it was disfranchised. Certain parties applied to the Court of Session for managers, and the court appointed three respectable gentlemen, resident in Kinghorn, to preside over its affairs, without being invested, however, with judicial authority. The absence of this authority has been felt to be no great evil. The residence of one of the county police has been found quite sufficient to check any disorderly conduct, and to maintain a surveillance over the public-houses and spirit-shops within the burgh. And the change in the management has had this material advantage, that the feelings of partisanship and partiality which naturally gathered around a system of some hundred years' growth, and which became every day less agreeable to the wants and wishes of the community, have now, and we trust for ever, passed away.\*

*Means of Communication.*—The long establishment of a post-office in the burgh, the constant and regular communication to Edinburgh by means of the Ferry, and the daily coaches which pass through the town on their route to and from the metropolis, present the greatest facilities for intercourse with all parts of the kingdom.

In whatever article of supply Kinghorn may be deficient for its inhabitants, there is an abundance to be found in Kirkcaldy,

\* The burgh of Kinghorn, with a few others in Scotland, was excluded from the operation of the Municipal Reform Bill, which gave a new and more popular law for the choice of magistrates and councillors. Up to the time of its disfranchisement, it remained in the old close burgh system.

only three miles distant, which opens a most extensive market for both home and foreign productions.

*Harbours.*—The old harbour of Kinghorn is of little use, save for the accommodation of fishing-boats. The harbour at Pettycur is in good condition, and affords a convenient landing place for passengers, goods, and cattle, when the vessels, by the state of the tide, are able to get along-side of the quay. The harbour and shore dues, with anchorages, have hitherto yielded not less than L.140 annually to the burgh funds.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church and burial-ground are close upon the sea shore, near to the old harbour. The situation is very inconvenient, even for the town's-people; the street that leads down to it from the main or high street is long, narrow, and steep. It is, besides, very frequently wet and dirty. For the inhabitants of the landward parish the site is as bad as could be chosen. It is nearly seventy years since the church was rebuilt. The walls are still tolerably good, but the seats are old and rickety, and from the church-yard standing above the level of the floor, (in some places nearly five feet,) the pavement and walls are damp, and the atmosphere is often close and heavy. This latter evil has been greatly removed by the erection of two stoves. It can accommodate about 700. One-half of the sittings are appropriated to the landward parishioners, and the other half to the town's people. There have been very few seat rents drawn by the burgh, and none by the landward heritors. A number of old seats under the sailors' gallery (this aisle is of a more ancient date than the rest of the church) were for a long period set apart for the school children, and have been latterly occupied by the scholars enjoying the benefit of Mr Philp's charity.

The manse is hard by the church, and is in good repair, having been built in 1817. The glebe is below the legal measurement, but it was an excambion for the old glebe near Vicarsgrange, and was considered at the time an advantageous exchange for the incumbent. Its value is about L. 18 yearly. The stipend is 17 chalders, half meal, half barley, paid according to the Fife fiars. There is a poor grass glebe along the shore, which is rented at L.1, 10s. annually.

There is a *quoad sacra* church built on the eastern boundary of this parish, in the village of Invertiel, or Westbridge. It is seated for 800. A portion of this parish, containing a population of 760, and a part of the adjoining parish of Abbotshall, were al-



located by the Presbytery of Kirkcaldy to this new church. The minister is paid from the seat rents, and the collections made at the church doors.

A Burgher Dissenting chapel has existed in the town for upwards of sixty years. The minister is paid on the voluntary principle, and of course his stipend varies.

There are also a few Anabaptists, who meet together for worship.

There are about 700 communicants in the parish belonging to the Established Church of Scotland. About 500 of these belong to the parish church, and the remaining 200 attend at Invertiel new church, and at Auchtertool and Abbotshall churches,—these being more contiguous to some portions of the landward parish than the church at Kinghorn.

There are 165 communicants in the parish belonging to the Burgher meeting-house, and nearly 100 more in communion with other Dissenting congregations in Kirkcaldy and Burntisland.

The attendance on the ordinances of religion at the parish church is full and regular.

A Female Bible and Missionary Society collects annually at an average, L.6, 10s. And the collections at the parish church, with parochial contributions for religious and charitable purposes, average L.20 per annum. Since December, (four months ago), there have been L.16 collected for coals to the poor; for the four schemes of the church, L.10, 16s., besides L.6 from an individual for church extension, to aid the supplementary fund. This was in addition to L.14 formerly given for the same object.

*Education.*—The burgh and parochial school of Kinghorn is an object which attracts attention, on account of its equipments and accommodation as a seminary for youth. It is a handsome building at the west end of Kinghorn, standing within an enclosure tastefully laid out with shrubs and plants. There is also a bowling-green, besides the play ground, with gymnastic poles for the children.

In addition to the large room allotted to the parochial teacher, there are two smaller ones, well fitted up,—one for an infant school, and the other for drawing classes. This apartment is frequently used by the parochial teacher for monitors' classes. In the centre of the building, there is a museum well furnished with good specimens of mineralogy, geology, zoology, conchology, and anatomy. There are also a few good casts from the busts of emi-

nent men, such as Sir Isaac Newon, Franklin, Watt, Sir W. Scott, and others; and several stucco casts from the frieze of the Parthenon, taken from the Elgin marbles in the British Museum. The school is taught on the most approved principles. The attendance of pupils averages about 120. A wide range of instruction is afforded them. Besides the usual branches of English and grammar, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping, mathematics, pure and practical, French, Latin, and Greek, the children are taught the uses of the various specimens which the museum presents to their youthful inquiry, and thus they receive an initiatory knowledge of geology, mineralogy, &c.

The salary is L.25. The school fees for each scholar average 18s. per annum, and amount to L.100 annually. The teacher has neither house nor garden, the arrangement made for the retirement of the former teacher having considerably crippled the means of the burgh for providing suitable accommodation for his successor.

There is another school in the town, attended on an average by 50 children, who are taught the elementary branches of reading, writing, and arithmetic. It is not endowed, and the teacher has no remuneration except the school fees.

There is also a female and infant school; the average number attending both is about 80. A sewing-school for the girls is now in full operation.

There is an efficient school in the village of Invertiel, where the usual elementary branches are taught, and also practical mathematics. It is attended by 70. A school-house is provided for the teacher, but no salary beyond his school fees. The children in the northern parts of the parish are obliged, on account of the distance from Kinghorn, to attend the schools in Auchtertool.

Sabbath school teaching has long been vigorously carried on here for instructing the youth in the principles of religion, and training them to its practice. The parochial teacher has one under his charge, attended by 125;\* and the minister has had an adult class for several years, which he has lately taught on the Thursday evenings, attended on an average by 50. This class

\* This school is partly endowed by the late Mr Philp, who left to the districts in which his other charity schools are established, L.10 to each for the instruction of a Sabbath evening school, besides a similar sum for house-rent.



is exclusively for females, and those especially who are employed in the mills.

The Dissenting minister, the Rev. James Hardie, has also been most industrious in this department. He has long had a Sabbath evening class, which has been well attended.

*Library.*—There is a library kept in the museum by the parochial teacher, and another subscription one in the town. The minister obtained, a few years ago, a good selection of books from the Tract Society in London, which have been well read by the young people attending his class, and others who chose to enjoy the privilege.

*Charitable Institutions.*—The late Robert Philp, Esq. of Edenshead, left his property for the endowment of schools; one-eighth part of which was appropriated for the instruction and clothing of 50 children in Kinghorn, and the residue of the fund to be given to the children in such proportions as the managers of the charity shall direct, “the better to enable the children on leaving the school to begin the world.” The children enjoying the charity attend the parochial school, and are taught all the branches which the other children receive in the course of instruction.

*Henry Bursary.*—The late Rev. James Henry, minister of this parish, left L.300 to found a bursary, to support a young man during four years of his philosophical studies at the United College of St Salvador and St Leonard, in the University of St Andrews, the interest of which, at five per cent., yields to the bursar L.15 a-year. The right of electing the bursar is vested in the kirk-session of Kinghorn, the presbytery of Kirkcaldy, and the town-council (now the managers) of this burgh. These bodies are appointed by the trust-deed to send their respective delegates to meet together, by previous appointment of the minister of Kinghorn, in the session-house there, and then to make choice, by plurality of voices, of a young man to enjoy the bursary for the time being.

*Savings' Bank.*—There is no saving bank in the parish, but there is one in Kirkcaldy, which is of great advantage to the district, and in it deposits to a considerable amount are lodged by the sober and working classes.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of poor, who receive regular aliment from the parochial funds, for the last seven years, is 39, and the weekly sum granted to each varies from 8d. to 2s. 6d. There are occasional poor besides these, who re

ceive half-yearly distributions at the winter and summer sacraments. The average amount for their relief is L.121, 19s. The church door collections have averaged, for the last ten years, L.30. Voluntary contributions, supplied by the heritors, have averaged L.70 per annum, and the interest on L.550 at four per cent., left to the kirk-session for the poor by the late Rev. James Henry, including L.100 left by the Rev. Mr Shanks of Castlerigg for the same object, after deducting stamp-receipt, amounts to L.21, 19s. making in all the above sum of L.121, 19s. annually.

There is no disposition on the part of the poor to abstain from seeking parochial relief. There is an opinion gaining ground, that the heritors of the parish are obliged to supply the wants of the poor, which is affecting considerably both the church door collections, and the independent feeling which at one time had such a strong hold of our Scottish peasantry.

*Prisons.*—There is a strong and secure prison in the town-house, but there is not a prisoner in it, and it will not be of much use now, except for a lock-up-house, as the prison for punishment for this district is in Kirkcaldy.

*Fairs.*—There is a fair marked in the Almanack for Kinghorn, but there has not of late been a *sweet* stall erected on the street, on the day on which it is said to be held.

*Ale-houses.*—There is one good inn at Pettycur, and there are in the burgh nine spirit-shops and ale-houses.

*Fuel.*—The fuel chiefly consumed here is coal, which costs about 9s. a ton, and is driven in carts from Lochgelly, Cluny, and other collieries, at an average distance of eight miles.

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*Inchkeith.*—This striking island, lying in mid-channel between Kinghorn and Leith, was, soon after the Reformation in Scotland, annexed ecclesiastically to the parish of Kinghorn.\* It is upwards of half a mile in length, and it varies in breadth, being narrow towards the south, but widening and increasing also in height as it approaches towards the north. At its highest elevation, on which the light-house is built, it is 180 feet above the level of the sea.

It has several springs of the purest water, and is rich both in its botanical and geological productions. The soil is excellent, where, from the nature of the surface, it can be cultivated, and the pasture has long been esteemed peculiarly nutritious for cattle.

\* Records of Presbytery, Kirkcaldy.



There are many rabbits on the island, and its shores are well known to the fishermen as abounding with fish and oysters, and other kinds of shell-fish.

The island was conferred by Malcolm II., in 1010, upon the first of the Noble family of Keith, as a reward for his valour at the battle of Barry. From this family it received its name. It subsequently fell to the Crown, as it was included in the grant of Glammis Tower and the lands of Kinghorn to Lord Glammis. The Strathmore family retained it till 1649, when it was sold to Sir John Scott of Scotstarvit, for the purpose, it would appear, of establishing a fishery upon it. After passing into the hands of various proprietors, it ultimately became the property of the Buccleuch family. His Grace, the present representative of that distinguished family, is, in virtue of this property, an heritor of the parish of Kinghorn.

The purposes to which this beautiful island has been appropriated are varied and important. It became a military station of great consequence to the contending parties during the stormy periods of Mary of Guise and her unfortunate daughter, and of Charles I. A part of the wall, showing the strength and nature of its fortifications, is still to be seen. James IV. is said to have made it the scene of an experiment to discover the original language of mankind, by sending thither two infants under the care of a deaf and dumb nurse; but the result of the trial has never been recorded. At an earlier period (1497), the island was, by order of the King, made an asylum for the reception of persons in Edinburgh who were seized with a contagious disorder "callit the grandgore."

Very different is now the purpose to which Inchkeith is appropriated. In 1803, it was selected for the establishment of a lighthouse, on account of its great importance to the navigation of the Forth; and the first beacon-light appeared from it on the evening of the 1st September 1804. Since that time it has undergone various improvements. In 1815, it was changed from being a stationary light to a revolving one, to distinguish it from the fixed light erected on the Isle of May. But the greatest improvement upon the apparatus was made in 1834, when, instead of seven reflectors revolving, each with its own lamp in the cavity or centre of the reflector, there is now one fixed burner, around which there revolves a heptagon, having on each side a perpendicular lens of large size and great power, which concentrates the light at the

focus of each to a dazzling brilliancy. This heptagon performs, by a beautifully constructed machine, an entire revolution around the burner, or fixed light, in the course of seven minutes, which causes the lapse of one minute between the concentrated light passing through the centre of one lens till it again passes through the centre of another. Hence the alternations of brilliancy and dimness in the light, appearing to every eye around the whole horizon.

There are two families who constantly reside on the island,—the principal keeper of the light-house and his assistant, who are very comfortably lodged within the building which has been erected for the light. Everything connected with this establishment is in the most complete order, being under the skilful superintendence of Mr Robert Stevenson, Civil-Engineer.

*January 1843.*

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## PARISH OF DUNFERMLINE.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. PETER CHALMERS, A. M., MINISTER OF  
FIRST CHARGE.

*Second charge at present vacant.*

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Situation and Height.*—THE town of Dunfermline is situated in latitude  $56^{\circ} 5' 4''$  north; longitude  $3^{\circ} 27' 18''$  west from Greenwich (station, Abbey Church); sixteen miles north-west of Edinburgh; 43 north-east of Glasgow; 21 east-south-east of Stirling; 29 south of Perth; 11 south-west of Kinross; 30 south-west of Cupar, the county town; and 12 west south-west of Kirkcaldy. It is 2 miles 7 furlongs north of the Frith, at Limekilns, in the parish; 3 miles 3 furlongs ditto at Rosyth Castle; and  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles north-west of North Queensferry.

*Name.*—The word *Dunfermline*, locally pronounced *Dumferline*, or vulgarly *Dumfarline*, is of Celtic origin. *Dun* signifies a heap, hill, tower, castle; *faire* denotes a watch or guard; and *linne*, a pool, a pond, and also a waterfall or cataract; or *loin*, a little stream



or rivulet. Hence *Dun-fair-linne* or *loin* will mean, The Fort or Castle, which commands the pool or stream,—or shortly, The Watch-tower of or upon the stream. This is thought the most simple derivation, and most agreeable to the Gaelic idiom, and therefore is preferable to another, the more common, and also quite correct one, which makes *Dun* and *linne* or *loin* as above, and *fiar*, crooked or winding, so that *Dun-fiar-linne* or *loin*, will signify, The Castle upon the crooked or curved pool or winding stream. Both these etymologies are suitable to the locality from which it is most probable the name was taken, the tower or residence of King Malcolm III. being situated upon a mount in Pittencrieff Glen, on the west side of the church, around which a little stream winds.

The word, Dunfermline, was anciently written Dunfermelyn, Dunfermelyne, Dunfermling, Dunfermlyng, Dwnfermling, Domfermeling, Dounfranelin, and Dunfermlis; and in Latin, *Dunum Fermilinum*, *Dunum Fermelini*, *Fermelinodunum*, *Fermalinodunum*, *Fermilodunensis*, and *Fermilodunum*. This last mode of writing the name, appears on the present common seal of the burgh, the armorial bearing of which is a tower or fort, supported by two lions. Around the device is a circle, on which are inscribed the words SIGILLVM CIVITATIS FERMILODVNI. In the ancient seal of the burgh, which has been long lost, but some impressions of which remain, there were around the same arms two circles, in the exterior of which were engraved the words just quoted, with the name of the town, spelled FERMELODUNI, and the interior, the words ESTO RUPES INACCESSA. On the reverse side was the figure of a lady, holding a sceptre, and on each side an inverted sword, handle downwards, surrounded by the words MARGARETA REGINA SCOTORUM. All these legends are in Roman capitals.

The arms of the burgh evidently refer to the origin of the town, and show what has been the prevailing opinion as to the derivation of its name. For there is a peninsulated eminence in Pittencrieff Glen, as already noticed, close by the town, of about seventy feet in height, and very steep, rugged, and rocky on the north side, on which stood a tower commonly called *King Malcolm Canmore's Tower*, or his residence at Dunfermline, and probably built by him. The name of his Queen was Margaret, afterwards canonized, and named St Margaret. A small coarse fragment of two walls of this tower, strongly cemented with lime, mixed evidently with sea sand, from the quantity of shell

imbedded in it, still remains, very properly preserved by the present proprietor, James Hunt, Esq., and which must be now nearly 800 years old. Around the base of this little hill, there winds a rivulet, named the *Back-burn* or *Tour* (Tower) *burn*; and from the sides and summit of the hill, as well as through the adjacent deep and narrow glen, there rises some very stately and aged trees. The hill or mount is named from the building erected on it, *The Tower-hill*, and about a hundred yards south-east of it in the glen, are the ruins of the ancient Palace of Dunfermline, of which notice will afterwards be taken. The whole scenery is exceedingly picturesque and romantic, the admiration of all strangers.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The territorial extent of the parish is very great, and its figure irregular. Its utmost length from north to south is about nine miles, and its utmost breadth from east to west, about six miles. It contains about 19,296 acres imperial, or 15,300 Scots, exclusive of the space occupied by the town, villages and great roads. Calculating the *average* length at eight, and the *average* breadth at four and a-half miles, the number of square miles in the parish will be 36, and of square imperial acres, 23,040.

Dunfermline is bounded by the parishes of Cleish and Saline on the north, of Carnock and Torryburn on the west, and of Beath, Aberdour, Dalgety, and Inverkeithing, on the east. It has Inverkeithing, also, on the south-east; and the Frith of Forth on the south-west.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The surface presents a great variety of appearances.

The southern division is fertile and well clothed, and in many places very beautiful, from the undulating nature of the ground, and the intermixture of clumps and belts of good plantations; while the northern is, with some exceptions, naked and bleak in aspect. The land has a general ascent from south to north, which is easy, and not much interrupted by declivities between the Frith of Forth, at the village of Limekilns and the town; but is more rapid and irregular afterwards. The undulations of the rising ground, on the approach to the town, from the North Queensferry, are very considerable, causing alternately great heights and hollows in the road leading to it.

The northern section of the parish is considerably diversified by high and low-lying grounds, the swelling ridges becoming more numerous and elevated, as they spread towards the Cleish



hills, with occasional valleys intervening, and generally extending from east to west. The Roscobie ridge is very prominent.

The principal hills are, the hill of Beath, on the north-east, which is partly in this, and partly in Beath parish; and Craighluscar hill, on the north-west. The former has the greater elevation of the two, is clothed with verdure to the summit, and commands a beautiful prospect.

The coast along the Frith of Forth stretches about a mile and a half, and is partly high, and partly flat. It is chiefly rocky in its nature, and the portion of it immediately in front of Broomhall house, which is steep, is covered with fine wood. At the western extremity are the harbour, village, and lime-works of Charleston; in the centre, the bay, harbour, and village of Limekilns; and close by, on the east, in the parish of Inverkeithing, the harbour of Brucehaven, and about a quarter of a mile onward the ruins of the old church, and the churchyard of Rosyth, where the ground projects a little into the Frith.

*Meteorology.*—The atmosphere is generally dry, clear, bracing, and salubrious; but there is a considerable diversity in the parish as to climate. In the southern division, where the land has a gentle slope towards the Frith, and is comparatively well sheltered, the temperature is much milder and more genial than in the northern, where the ground has a gradual ascent, and is more hilly and less protected. From this circumstance, as well as the greater wetness and inferiority of the soil in the northern district, the harvest there is commonly two or three weeks later than in the southern. Even in the upper and lower ends of the town, there is a perceptible difference in the temperature, as indeed may be supposed from the fact, that there are 200 feet of difference between their respective elevations above the level of the sea.

A meteorological table, showing the state of the barometer and thermometer at nine o'clock in the morning for ten years, 1825–1834, both inclusive, was kept by the late Rev. Henry Fergus, minister of the Relief Church, Dunfermline, well known in this quarter for the ardour and ability with which he prosecuted scientific studies, as well as the amiableness and modesty of his character. From this table, with which I have been favoured, the following facts and calculations have been deduced as to atmospheric pressure and temperature:—

1. *Atmospheric Pressure.*—The subjoined table points out the mean height of the barometer for each of the months of the ten

years specified, viz. from the beginning of 1825 to the end of 1834, derived from observations made daily at nine o'clock in the morning. There is also a column to indicate the deviations in excess or defect of the means for each month from the mean height of the barometer, during the whole period of observation.

MONTHS.	Height at 9. A.M. Inches.	Aberrations of Monthly Means. Inches.
January . . .	29.49	+.05
February . . .	29.40	— .04
March . . .	29.43	— .01
April . . .	29.41	— .03
May . . .	29.55	+.11
June . . .	29.48	+.04
July . . .	29.51	+.07
August . . .	29.46	+.02
September . . .	29.45	+.01
October . . .	29.44	= .00
November . . .	29.35	— .09
December . . .	29.31	— .13
Average Mean		29.44

Thus it appears that the average mean pressure, taken from the means of the months, is 29.44 ; that the means in excess are one more than in defect ; that the former obtain in five consecutive months, from May to September, both inclusive ; and that in the month of October there was an equality.

The mean height of the barometer during the twelve months, and the highest and lowest state of it in the course of each year of the above specified period, as also its annual range or difference between these two conditions, was as follows :—

YEARS.	Mean Height of Barometer during Twelve Months.	Highest.	Lowest.	Annual Range.
1825	29.655	29.68	28.75	.93
1826	29.287	29.56	29.11	.45
1827	29.437	29.57	28.90	.67
1828	29.293	29.64	29.01	.63
1829	29.550	29.73	29.18	.55
1830	29.478	29.80	29.25	.55
1831	29.491	29.69	29.29	.40
1832	29.565	29.74	29.42	.32
1833	29.471	29.87	29.02	.85
1834	29.614	29.87	29.19	.68
Means	29.403	29.59	29.26	.50

2. *The Temperature.*—The following table shows the mean height of the thermometer during the twelve months of each of the years in the fore-mentioned period ; as also its highest and lowest state in each year of it :—



YEARS.	Mean Height of Thermometer during Twelve Months.	Highest.	Lowest.
1825	46.810	60.01	37.22
1826	47.655	62.07	34.17
1827	46.380	58.26	33.18
1828	47.662	57.26	39.13
1829	44.950	57.05	33.17
1830	45.909	58.14	35.09
1831	47.629	60.17	34.27
1832	47.134	58.10	38.27
1833	46.757	59.0	34.10
1834	48.023	60.0	39.12

The mean temperature of each month, and the average means of the whole for these ten years, is thus shown :—

MONTHS.	Mean Height of Thermometer from 1825 to 1834.
January . . .	36.17
February . . .	38.14
March . . .	40.13
April . . .	44.12
May . . .	50.14
June . . .	57.10
July . . .	59.10
August . . .	56.10
September . . .	52.16
October . . .	48.15
November . . .	40.12
December . . .	40.14

Average Mean 46. 8

The average of the thermometer was accordingly 46.8, while that of the barometer, as formerly ascertained, was 29.44. It appears, too, that January was the coldest and July the hottest months during the ten years in question.

*Rain and Wind.*—The prevailing and strongest winds in the parish are from the west and south-west, as indicated by the inclination in an opposite direction of single and exposed trees ; and it is these winds which most frequently bring rain, while the coldest are from the north and east. A north-westerly wind is generally dry.

In 1828, the following observations were made as to rain and wind. From 1st January to 31st December of that year, there were 157 rainy days, in 51 of which the rain was incessant. The number of days during which the wind blew from the west and south-west was 211, from the south 39, from and about the east 56, and from the north 59.

The following is a table of the quantity of rain which fell in the

town of Dunfermline each month for the last ten years, obtained from a common rain-gauge.

MONTHS.	1832.	1833.	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.
	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.	In.
January,	.75	.37	4.4	1.7	3.9	1.2	1.9	2.8	3.	1.3
February,	1.8	3.	2.6	2.8	2.4	3.5	2.9	2.5	1.4	1.1
March,	1.5	1.5	2.4	2.6	3.9	.5	3.5	3.1	3.	1.2
April,	1.24	1.4	.9	1.	2.2	1.9	1.8	.4	3.	.8
May,	1.4	2.4	1.5	1.4	.5	1.5	2.8	.8	3.1	.7
June,	1.7	2.6	2.5	.9	2.6	1.5	6.4	2.4	1.8	1.9
July,	1.6	2.6	1.9	2.2	6.9	2.5	3.	2.8	3.5	4.5
August,	3.9	1.1	1.7	1.6	2.9	3.4	3.9	1.6	2.1	6.8
September,	1.3	1.4	4.5	4.9	3.2	1.6	3.4	4.8	2.3	3.3
October,	5.6	1.	1.6	2.7	2.7	3.5	2.2	2.9	2.1	8.2
November,	1.3	2.4	2.3	2.9	2.6	3.9	2.2	2.9	2.5	2.1
December,	1.5	6.1	1.3	1.9	4.	2.7	1.1	2.9	5.	3.2
Total of each year,	23.63	27.87	27.6	26.6	38.8	27.8	35.1	29.9	32.8	35.1

*Hydrography.*—The Frith of Forth, as already mentioned, bounds the lower part of the parish, on the south-west, and the *quoad civilia* part of it, at North Queensferry, on the south-east. It presents here nothing remarkable as to tides, except a slight peculiarity occasionally at Charleston, the south-western extremity of the parish. Indeed, there is no great peculiarity in this respect on the whole Frith till near Alloa, where there is a very striking one, called *Lakies*, of which a short account is given in Sibbald's History of Fife (pp. 87–8), and a very full one in the new Statistical Account of that parish.

A bank runs from Long Craig Island at North Queensferry, all along the north shore, as far up as Long Annat Point, above Blair house, west of the burgh of Culross, which is nearly dry in all places, in low spring tides.

Some of the soundings, at a little distance from this bank, at low water of spring tides, are as follows:—

Near Charleston,	16 feet.
Between Charleston and Limekilns,	12
Near Limekilns,	9
... Du-Craig Island, west of Rosyth Castle,*	21
... Long Craig Island, west of North Queensferry,	18
The depth of water at Charleston harbour, at the height of the stream tides, is	16½
Ditto at Limekilns harbour,	13½
Ditto at Brucehaven do.	14½
Ditto at all these harbours, at neap-tides, is about	8

\* "Probably Dubh-Crags, Gaelic, black-rocks."—Sibbald's History of Fife, Cu-par Fife, 1803, 8vo, p. 94.



Heavy gales of wind from the west often raise the tides  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet above the usual calculation.

The average depth of water in the centre of the Frith, between a point opposite Rosyth castle, and a point opposite Borrowstounness, is about 55 feet. The greatest depth in this range is on the south side of the small Bimar Island, where it is 192 feet. Between that island and Long Craig Island, it is 162 feet. The depth between North Battery Pier and the north-west of Inchgarvie Island, is 210 feet, nearer to that point it is 222 feet,—the greatest depth of water in the whole Frith, and even in many parts of the North Sea.

A stone-beacon was lately erected by the commissioners for the northern light-houses on Bimar Island, 27 feet in height, and 13 in diameter, as a protection to vessels at high water, when the island is covered

Long Craig Island, Du-Craig, and Bimar, are all rocky and of small extent. Their sizes are in the order now named.

South of the east end of Long Craigs, and midway between it and a parallel line from Bimar, is Fair-way sunk rock, flattish, stretching south-west and north-east, about the size of the deck of a vessel of 200 tons. It is covered at lowest stream ebb by  $5\frac{1}{2}$  or 6 feet water. A sloop drawing  $8\frac{1}{2}$  feet water grounded on it on the 2d November 1826, and remained till the tide had flowed an hour. Since that period, vessels with any draught of water always take the south side of Bimar rock.

The smallest breadth of the Frith, viz. from the extremity of the Signal-House Pier to that of the South Queensferry Pier, at lowest water of spring tides, is  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles, and to Newhalls Pier, about 50 yards more. The greatest breadth, viz. from Limekilns to the opposite shore, west of Blackness Castle, is from two to three miles.

*Springs.*—There is a small mineral spring near the iron mill, in the vicinity of Charleston.

The springs from which the town of Dunfermline is supplied with water are situated at Cairncubie, in the town-moor, about a mile and half north-east of the town. The water was first brought from them into the town about 1797, and is conveyed in pipes partly wooden and partly cast-iron, and also, during a portion of its progress, in conduits built of stone and lime.

*Lakes or Lochs.*—There are several of these in the northern

part of the parish ;—the Town Loch, Lochend, Lochfitty, Loch Gloe, and Black Loch.

*Rivulets.*—The chief brook deserving notice is the Lyne, or as it is often called the Spital (Hospital) burn, from passing in its course near the site of the ancient hospital of St Leonards, at the lower end of the town. There are also the Tower or Tour-burn, which winds round the Tower-hill in Pittencrieff Glen, whence it derives its name, and the Baldrige burn.

*Mineralogy, Geology, Soil.\**—The fields of coal in this district are very extensive, and appear to have been among the most ancient in Scotland. I am aware of only two notices of coal, one in England, the other in Scotland, prior to that in Dunfermline, the former being variously dated, 1234, 1239, and 1245 ; the latter 1284–5.†

In 1291, William de Oberwill, proprietor of Pittencrieff estate, adjoining to the town, granted a charter to the abbot and convent of Dunfermline, bestowing on them the privilege of working one coal-pit, wherever they chose, on any part of his property, except the land which was arable ; and when one was exhausted, of opening another at their pleasure, as often as they considered it expedient, but for their own exclusive use, and with an express prohibition to sell coals to others. He also, in the same charter, gave them a right to quarry and hew as many stones as they pleased, on the same conditions, with the liberty of making “ free use of all the roads and footpaths through his lands of Petyncreff and of Galurigs, which they at any time had employed, or been in the practice of employing.” To this charter were affixed not only his own seal, but, at his instance, those of the Lord Bishop of St Andrews, and of Robert de Malevilla (Melville), and it is dated at Dunfermline on the Tuesday immediately before the feast of St Ambrose, bishop and confessor, 1291.‡

But at the early period of 1291, there was little coal wrought in the parish. It was then a luxury enjoyed chiefly by the inmates of the Abbey, and persons of distinction in the country.

In progress of time coal came to be generally used as fuel in

\* Vide the author's Prize Essay on the Dunfermline coal-field, which appeared first in the Quarterly Journal of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, for June 1840, and with the necessary alterations brought down to October 1842, and some additions, in his Historical and Statistical Account of Dunfermline, pp. 600, illustrated with 17 engravings, published by Blackwood and Sons, May 1844.

† Arnot's Hist. of Edinburgh, 4to, Book i. ch. 2, p. 84. History of Fossil Fuel, &c., 8vo, (1835), p. 310–311. Chalmers' Caledonia, Vol. i. p. 793, note.

‡ Carta de Petyncreff de dono Willielmi de Oberwill, 1291.—Chartulary of the Abbey, Advocates' Lib. Printed Chart. p. 218.



Dunfermline, as in other places; and when trade was prosperous, even to be exported to foreign parts. Although it continued to be wrought by crop-levels long after 1291, there was little exportation till the middle of last century. Even so late as 1763, the writer of the last Statistical Account of the parish, states that the annual value of exported coal was only L.200, and in 1771, that it did not exceed L.500 Sterling. The coal-mines became after 1771, and have continued to be, very lucrative to many of the proprietors. "From a remote period," the same writer records, "the family of Pitferrane obtained from Government the privilege of exporting these coals to foreign parts, free of all duty whatever. The original privilege was renewed by Queen Anne, on December 21, 1706, and ratified in Parliament on March 21, 1707. The family continued to enjoy the privilege till 1788, when it was purchased by Government for L.40,000 Sterling, when the property that could injure the revenue was nearly exhausted."

Although the coal in the parish has thus been dug for upwards of five centuries, it is still most abundant. Nearly 3000 acres are calculated as still to work, a portion of that quantity having been ascertained by general boring, and the rest conjectured on good grounds to be of the coal-formation, with such interruptions, more or less slight, as commonly occur in coal-fields.

The coal-strata extend from Culalo Hills on the east to the Saline Hills on the west, and pervade in that line of bearing the whole of the parish of Dunfermline. In some parts there have been discovered 10 or 12 seams to the dip, the aggregate thickness of which amounts to upwards of 40 feet, contained in beds varying from a few inches to seven or eight feet in thickness. These are different in quality as well as in thickness, but in general improve towards the west. By being divested of part of their bitumen, they partake of more heat and durability, and, from a hard splint, they become a rich caking cubical coal, until they approach the trap hills, when they lose their bituminous quality altogether, and are changed into a blind anthracite, or glance-coal.\*

*Elgin Colliery.*—The largest proprietor is the Earl of Elgin, who possesses a coal-field, the whole area of which, wrought and unwrought, may be stated at from 2600 to 2700 acres.

The coal-seams are of various quality, and some of them, especially the deepest, are extremely valuable. Almost all the coal

\* This coal is termed by the workmen in Fife, *Rotten ratchell*, or *Foul rahill*, and is used in furnaces of steam-engines and breweries.

partakes more or less of the caking quality and soft texture of the Newcastle coal. It is easily ignited, possesses great heat and durability, and produces very few ashes of a brown colour, which renders it cleanly and economical for all purposes.

A new pit was completed at the end of the year 1839, 105 fathoms deep, named the "Wallsend Pit,"\* which has entirely superseded the use of the Baldrige pit in the vicinity. It is the deepest coal shaft in Scotland, and probably one of the most valuable. It is very productive, yielding at present as much coal as all the other pits together previously did at any one time.

Subjoined is a section of the different strata in this pit, showing the order of their superposition and succession, as well as the thickness of each. As the shaft is sunk in the bottom of an elliptical basin, the general dip of the strata is towards the shaft, as to a common centre from all directions, except the north, where the segment of the basin is cut off by a dike. The general angle of the dip will be from  $16^{\circ}$  to  $20^{\circ}$ .†

\* The common name *Wallsend* means the end of the wall of Severus, on the northern bank of the Tyne, a few miles below Newcastle, where the best coal is got.

† Section of the strata in the Wallsend Pit in West Baldrige, the property of the Earl of Elgin.

	Coal.			Various Strata.		
	Fath.	Ft.	In.	Fath.	Ft.	In.
1. Soil and clay mixed with sand,				2	4	0
2. Soft brown sandstone,				4	3	0
3. Coal soft and foul,	0	3	0	0	3	0
4. Soft brown sandstone,				1	2	0
5. Hard white sandstone,				1	3	0
6. Slate clay or blaes mixed with sand,				0	1	6
7. Coal,	0	2	0			
8. Bituminous stone or slate,	0	0	5			
9. Coal,	0	1	7			
				0	4	0
10. Slate-clay or blaes				0	1	3
11. Soft white sandstone,				0	3	0
12. Slate-clay or blaes,				0	0	9
13. Sandstone plies mixed with blaes,				1	2	9
14. Slate-clay or blaes,				0	2	4
15. Coal,	0	3	6			
16. Bituminous stone,	0	0	5			
17. Coal,	0	2	9			
				0	6	8
18. Slate-clay or blaes,				0	1	10
19. Sandstone,				0	2	1
20. Sandstone plies and blaes alternately,				0	3	0
21. Sandstone,				0	3	0
22. Slate-clay or blaes,				0	4	4
23. Coal,	0	0	7	0	0	7
24. Slate-clay,				0	1	2
25. Sandstone,				0	3	7
26. Slate-clay,				1	3	3

Carry over,



The whole quantity of coals raised at the Elgin Collieries, on an average of the last five years and upwards, has been fully 60,000

	Coal.			Various Strata.		
	Fath.	Ft.	In.	Fath.	Ft.	In.
27. Slate-clay mixed with sandstone, . . . . .				0	1	2
28. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	3	0
29. Sandstone . . . . .				0	0	5
30. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	1	0
31. Sandstone . . . . .				8	1	6
32. Slate-clay, . . . . .				1	4	8
33. Coal, . . . . .	0	0	5	0	0	5
34. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	3	2
35. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	6			
36. Bituminous stone, . . . . .	0	0	3			
37. Coal, . . . . .	0	3	0			
	<hr/>			0	5	9
38. Sandstone plies and blaes alternately, . . . . .				1	2	8
39. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	2	5
40. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	9			
41. Sandstone mixed with blaes, . . . . .	0	1	10			
42. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	7			
	<hr/>			1	1	2
43. Sandstone with a ply of slate-clay, . . . . .				2	2	8
44. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	2	1
45. Coal, . . . . .	0	5	2	0	5	2
46. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	4	0
47. Sandstone. . . . .				0	0	8
48. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	3	10
49. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	5	0	2	5
	<hr/>			41	0	3
Depth of Pittferrane level, . . . . .				0	2	4
50. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	2	3
51. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	3	0	3	0
52. Slate-clay with balls of ironstone, . . . . .				0	0	3
53. Fire-clay, . . . . .				0	2	5
54. Slate-clay with balls of ironstone, . . . . .						
55. Coal, . . . . .	0	1	11			
56. Bituminous stone, . . . . .	0	0	4			
57. Coal, . . . . .	0	1	4			
	<hr/>			0	3	7
58. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	4	5
59. Ditto mixed with sandstone . . . . .				0	4	2
60. Sandstone, . . . . .				2	0	3
61. Coal, . . . . .	0	3	9	0	3	9
62. Sandstone, . . . . .				2	0	11
63. Ditto mixed with blaes, . . . . .				0	3	0
64. Slate-clay, . . . . .				1	3	9
65. Sandstone mixed with blaes, . . . . .				0	2	10
66. Sandstone, . . . . .				0	2	8
67. Sandstone mixed with blaes, . . . . .				0	3	0
68. Sandstone, . . . . .				1	4	1
69. Slate-clay, . . . . .				2	4	4
70. Sandstone, hard, . . . . .				0	1	4
71. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	2	5
72. Coal, . . . . .	0	0	7	0	0	7
73. Slate-clay, . . . . .				1	4	3
74. Sandstone, . . . . .				0	6	9
75. Coal, . . . . .	0	1	6	0	1	6
76. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	2	3
77. Ditto mixed with sandstone, . . . . .				0	2	8

Carry over,

tons, 40,000 of which have been exported, chiefly to the ports on the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas, the remainder being disposed of by land sale, and consumed at the Charleston Limeworks. The whole of this quantity is now produced at the Wallsend pit alone.

*Wellwood Colliery.*—Immediately to the east of the Elgin is the Wellwood Colliery, belonging to Andrew Wellwood of Garvock, Esq. It is situated about a mile north of Dunfermline, and is leased by James Spowart of Venturefair and Bellfield, Esq., a very enterprising and successful coalmaster. The colliery was a few

	Coal.			Various Strata.		
	Fath.	Ft.	In.	Fath.	Ft.	In.
78. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	3	1
79. Coal, . . . . .	0	0	7	0	0	7
80. Sandstone mixed with blaes, . . . . .				3	2	5
81. Coal, . . . . .	0	1	2	0	1	2
82. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	1	8
83. Sandstone mixed with blaes, . . . . .				0	4	6
84. Sandstone, . . . . .				2	1	8
85. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	2	0
86. Ditto mixed with sandstone, . . . . .				2	5	0
87. Sandstone, . . . . .				1	3	0
88. Ditto mixed with blaes, . . . . .				0	1	8
89. Slate-clay or blaes, . . . . .				0	4	9
90. Coal, . . . . .	0	1	7	0	1	7
91. Sandstone <i>with petrifications</i> , . . . . .				2	3	7
92. Slate-clay, . . . . .				1	5	5
93. Coal, . . . . .	0	0	2	0	0	2
94. Slate-clay (light grey), . . . . .				0	5	0
95. Ditto mixed with sandstone, . . . . .				0	5	3
96. Sandstone, . . . . .				9	0	6
97. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	3	5
98. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	8			
99. Bituminous stone, . . . . .	0	0	3			
100. Coal, . . . . .	0	0	10			
				0	3	9
101. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	3	0
102. Ditto marked with sandstone, . . . . .				0	1	6
103. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	1	6
104. Sandstone mixed with blaes, . . . . .				1	2	7
105. Sandstone, . . . . .				3	3	0
106. Slate-clay, . . . . .				0	1	7
107. Coal, . . . . .	0	2	0	0	2	0
108. Sandstone plies mixed with blaes, . . . . .				3	1	0
109. Slate-clay or blaes, . . . . .				1	0	0
110. Coal, . . . . .	0	3	8	0	3	8
111. Sandstone, . . . . .				1	4	0
				105	1	0

“In the preceding section,” the manager remarks, “there are 27 beds of coal of various thickness amounting to 56 feet 3 inches. Several of these are so thin that they cannot be wrought to advantage. But there are 19 of them containing 49 feet 8 inches of coal when taken in sections, as stated in the left hand column, which can be wrought in 13 divisions or separate workings. Each of these divisions is generally denominated one seam, without any regard to the midstone which lies between the different beds or leaves.

“The whole of these seams partake less or more of the caking quality and soft texture of the Newcastle coal, and, in particular, the three undermost are of the very richest kind.”



years since greatly increased in value, both to the proprietor and lessee, by the erection of a powerful steam-engine for drawing the water, whereby an excellent seam of splint-coal was reached, much admired for its clearness and purity. The coal from this work is extensively used in the town of Dunfermline and neighbourhood, and a large quantity of it is also exported to the ports on the Baltic and Mediterranean Seas, France, &c. chiefly for navigation purposes, for which it is well adapted. The steam-boats plying between Paris and Rouen are almost entirely supplied with it. There have been at times 2000 tons sent down by the Elgin railway in one fortnight.

The coal-field, including East Baldrige and Venturefair, not at present wrought, may embrace 200 acres, of which 30 or 40 are still to work.

The average quantity of coals raised in 1836–1841 was 39,535 tons per annum.

*Townhill and Appin Collieries.*—To the east of this colliery, and about a mile and a quarter from the town, are the Townhill and Appin Collieries, the former belonging to the burgh of Dunfermline, and the latter to Mr Downie of Appin. Previous to Candlemas 1838, the burgh had its coal in its own hands, and worked only that which was at a moderate depth, and of inferior quality, which was all sold in the town and neighbourhood at a lower rate than other coal. At the period mentioned, however, an enterprising and wealthy company took a lease of it for nineteen years, commencing at that date, and by sinking new pits, so as to reach the splint coal, a greater amount and superior quality of coal are raised, so that hopes are entertained that not only the lessees, but the creditors of the burgh, will be much benefited, even that the debt of the burgh will, at no distant period, be entirely paid off. The consumption formerly was chiefly in the town and vicinity, but now there is a considerable exportation to France, Denmark, and the Baltic. The coal for exportation is now shipped at Inverkeithing, whither it is conveyed by a branch railway recently formed through the lands of Messrs Downie, Wellwood, and Main, and joining the Halbeath one at Guttersgates, near where it crosses the Crossgates road.

The whole coal-field leased by the company is understood to cover above 900 acres, of which about 700 still remain unworked. All the lower seams to the north of the great dike are untouched.

The gross output of coal for several years previous to 1838 by

the burgh used to be between 6000 and 7000 tons per annum. That of the company averages at present 15,000 tons.

*Halbeath Colliery.*—The next large and very old colliery, still farther to the east, and two and a half miles from the town of Dunfermline, is that of Halbeath, belonging to John Clarkson, Esq. The coal-field here is very extensive, comprehending, with all the portions leased from the neighbouring proprietors, several hundred acres, of which there is a large portion still to work, but the precise extent of this cannot well be ascertained, in consequence of the want of the old plans of the workings. It may be estimated, however, at above 200 acres. A valuable bed of cannel or parrot coal has been wrought in it, with much advantage of late, in supplying the Dunfermline and other gas-works.

There are other two small collieries, the Cuttlehill and South Lethan, but at present there is little coal wrought at them.

*Fossil Organic Remains.*—These are found in great abundance in almost all these coal-fields, and they chiefly belong to the vegetable kingdom. They occur in the sandstone, coals, and fire-clay, but principally in the shales. Some excellent specimens were found in the New Wallsend pit, at the Elgin Colliery, in the stratum No. 91 of the section previously given, which is 15 feet 7 inches of sandstone, at the depth of from 76 to 78 fathoms from the surface. The largest of these have been transferred to the lawn south-east of Broomhall House.

*Elgin Colliery.*—1. A *Stigmara ficoides*. There are specimens of the body of this tree in fire-clay, with the leaves proceeding from the punctures, six or seven inches long. 2. There are stalks of the *Sigillaria pachyderma*. 3. There are the *Lepidodendron obovatum*, and the *Lepidodendron Sternbergii*, with other species. 4. There has likewise been found a plant, which is probably a *Megaphyton*. It is a pretty long stalk, exhibiting projecting points like steps, from which the branches probably went off. Some portions of the bark of these trees are quite smooth, and others still retain the rough coally matter; while the inner woody structure, which is the first to decay, has disappeared, and the space has been filled up with other ingredients, now forming the sandstone.

*Wellwood Colliery.*—At the Wellwood Colliery there have been found very good specimens of the *Lepidodendron Sternbergii*, and of *Calamites*. There is a round stalk of one of these, more than a foot long, and exhibiting two divisions of growth; and there is another more compressed, probably from having lain either hori-



Statistical Table in regard to the Collieries in the Parish of Dunfermline, 15th November 1842.

Number of Collieries working.	Number of Pits working.	Depth of Pits working.	Greatest depth at which Colliers work at present.	No. and Power of Steam-Engines.	General Pressure per inch on piston, which may be increased.	Mode of transporting Coals to pit bottoms.
5	9	From 15 to 105 fathoms, 1 foot.	105 Fathoms.	Horse-power. 13 High-pressure Eng. from 12 to 120 1 Cond. Eng. 70 2 Atmo Eng. 14 to 30 1 Bellcrank 16	24 lb.	By horses, women, and girls.
No. of acres in coal-field to work.	Average Number of Pits raised per annum.	Number of cwts. raised by each man per day.	Kinds and Prices of Coal at Pit-mouth.	Number of horses under ground.	Number of Horses on Railways.	No. of Collieries that struck during last five years for a short time.
About 3000.	About 120,000.	From 32 to 46.	Per ton. Fine Splint fr. 8s. 9d. to 9s. 2d. Chews of do. fr. 6s. 8d. to 7s. 6d. Small Coal, . . . 4s. 6d. 5 ft. coarse & chews, . . . 5s. Small culm of splint and 5 feet, . . . 3s. Dross, . . . 2s. 6d.	18	50	3 in 1837-8. 4 in 1842.
No. of colliers and others working.	Total Pop. dependent on Collieries.	Average No. of working days in the Fortnight.	Average Wages.	Whether Colliers attend Public Worship.	Whether Children go to School.	
Males, . . . 881 Females, . . . 296 Total, . . . 1177	Males, . . . 1451 Females, . . . 1459 Total, . . . 2910	10	Men from 2s. 6d. to 3s. 3d. after deductions for light, &c. Boys from 10 and upwards, 9d. to 2s. 3d. do. Women and girls, 8d. to 1s. 3d. do. Girls under 10, 6d.	When not far from church very many do; some even distant most regularly. When distant many seldom, or not at all.	Very many do.	

zontally, or at least at a less angle than  $45^{\circ}$ . The reedy appearance on both is quite distinct. The *Stigmaria* also has been found.

*Town Hill Colliery.*—At the Town Hill Colliery there have been found some very fine specimens of the *Lepidodendron* in clay-ironstone and in shale, and of the *Calamites*.

*Halbeath Colliery.*—The tooth of a sauroid fish, named by M. Agassiz, *Megalychtis*, was found a few years since in a bed of canal coal at Halbeath, of which Leonard Horner, Esq. gave an account in the Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal for April 1836, contending, in opposition to the opinion of Dr Hibbert, that it, as well as the same fish found in the limestone of Burdiehouse, belongs to a marine, not a fresh water formation.

This district abounds not only in coal, but in limestone, whinstone, sandstone, and a portion of ironstone.

*Limestone.*—Limestone is found in the lands of Broomhall, Roscobie, Lathalmond, Dunduff, Dunnygask, Craigluscar, Cowdens, Brucefield, Southfod, and Sunnybank; but is wrought for sale at present only on the first four mentioned properties.

There are altogether about 400,000 bushels of shells, and 15,000 tons of raw stone sold annually at Charleston. The burnt lime is sold by the imperial standard measure, and the present prices are,—

For lime shells, per bushel,	L.0	0	4
Slacked lime, per chalders of 36 bushels,	0	4	0
Limestone, per ton,	0	4	0
(Put free on board at Charleston harbour.)			
Lime-shell, by land-carriage, per bushel,	0	0	6

There are nearly 60,000 bushels of shells sold annually at Roscobie at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. per bushel.

The limestone in the parish belongs to the mountain limestone formation, and is of marine origin.

The Charleston limestone has several varieties, the principal of which are of a grey colour, with foliated structure, greyish brown with splintery fracture, and compact ash-grey. These have been found by careful analysis to contain carbonic acid from 40.25 to 42.3; lime from 47.05 to 51.6; magnesia from 0.92 to 2.59; alumina from 0.95 to 1.8; silica from 2.76 to 7.9; iron from 0.28 to 0.56; with a very small proportion of manganese, carbon, sulphur, and naphtha. The limestone which contains the greatest portion of naphtha, carbon, and sulphur, is also that which is lowest in the stratification.\*

\* Vide a Paper by the Rev. A. Robertson Junior, late of Inverkeithing, in Jameson's Edinburgh New Philosophical Journal, vol. vi. p. 364.



*Fossil Remains.*—There is a great abundance of fossil remains in the Charleston limestone. One large block of the stone, containing a very rich specimen of these, has been transferred to the lawn on the south-east corner of Broomhall House.

Here there are, 1st, The *Turbinolia fungites*, vulgarly named *Sheephorn*, from its resemblance to that object, or *turbinated madrepore*.

2d, The *Tubipora*, in great abundance.

3d, The *Encrinite*. Whole masses of the rock at Charleston are covered with this fossil, on account of the profusion of which, the limestone might be called, as it sometimes is, “Encrinal.”

4th, The *Producta* is very plentiful in this quarry, and there are some specimens of that species of it which have been denominated the *Producta Martini*. There are also the *Producta fimbriata*, *pustulosa*, and many others. There are observable on some of the *Producta* long minute lines, like silver wires, proceeding from both valves, commonly named needles, but now ascertained to be the spines of the *Producta*. Some portions of limestone also contain these spines without the *Producta*.

There are here, too, several species of *Spirifers* and *Terebratulæ*, and a few rare instances of the *Orthoceratite*.

On the shore, west of the harbour, was found a specimen of apparently a *coralline*.

Between Broomhall House and the quarry, there is on the rising ground a huge piece of lime-rock, preserved as a memorial of the height which the rock once possessed, and full of the organic remains now noticed, some of which are in thick regular layers. This piece of rock is seen from a great distance, and has upon it a flag-staff.

*Roscobie Limestone.*—This is about three and a half miles north from the town of Dunfermline, and is also of the mountain deposit. It has several varieties, the two principal of which are,—compact, grey, fracture earthy, with many particles of calcareous spar; and compact, grey, fracture earthy, with very few of these shining particles. Two specimens of these were carefully analysed for the writer in January and February 1839, by Rev. A. Robertson, Junior, well known for his chemical attainments, and were found to contain as follows. The first,—

Carbonic acid,	42.3
Lime,	52.8
Magnesia,	0.54
Alumina and oxide of iron,	0.5

Siliceous matter, insoluble in acid, in powder and small masses, . . . . .	3.7
A trace of sulphur and naphtha, and a little carbon.	
	<hr/> 99.84
The second,—	
Carbonic acid, . . . . .	41.4
Lime, . . . . .	52.2
Magnesia, . . . . .	0.33
Alumina and oxide of iron, . . . . .	0.4
Siliceous matter, insoluble in acid, in gritty powder, . . . . .	4.7
A trace of carbon.	
	<hr/> 99.03

This limestone abounds in the same kinds of fossils as have been mentioned to occur in that of Charleston. The encrinite is exceedingly abundant, and very large at Roscobie. One piece has been found, containing not only a great mass, in apparent confusion, as if arising from some violent disturbance of the stems and tentacula, but also what are very rare, at least in Scotland, two heads of this fossil. The rarity of these is supposed to be owing to their having been more tender parts of the animal, and of course more easily destroyed than the others.

There are met with here also pieces of calcareous shale, in which there are parts of the encrinite covered with iron-pyrites, and beautiful crystals of the same. Some pieces of shale, too, have the spines of the *Producta* distinctly marked on them; and one has spines of perhaps a large *Producta*, with portions of encrinites and *Retepora*. Also *Turbinolia* is found.

At the neighbouring lime-quarry of Lathalmond there are some large specimens of the *Producta*.

*Sunnybank Limestone*.—The limestone at the small quarry of Sunnybank, in the south-eastern part of the parish, is not the main bed of the mountain deposit, but one of the interpolated beds of the same formation. There is a thin bed of coal immediately below the limestone, and beneath the coal is a deep bed of fire-clay, of which are manufactured the very excellent fire-brick and gas retorts made at Inverkeithing.

Orthoceratites and various shells abound in a bed of slate-clay immediately above the limestone; as also at Duloch, in the immediate neighbourhood, in Inverkeithing parish.

*Craigluscar Lime-Quarry*.—This quarry, which is in the north-western part of the parish, and near the summit of a hill of the same name, presents one of the exceptions to the general nature



of the limestone rock, inasmuch as it contains a bed of trap, interstratified with two beds of limestone. The trap, however, is not pure, but has a mixture of lime in it, in consequence of which it is commonly named *Bastard Whin*. It is soft and of no durability, and hence is of little value. It is used in kiln buildings, and as metal on country roads, but soon needs to be replaced. It was probably thrown up over the lower bed of limestone, and at some subsequent period the upper bed was deposited upon it.

No metallic deposits, which are so abundant in the corresponding limestones of England, have been discovered in the limestones of this parish.

*Trap Rocks.*—There are several quarries of these in the parish. The principal one is at Woodhill, on Knockhouse farm, belonging to Captain Sir John Halket, Bart., Pitferrane. This rock appears to have been produced after the deposition of the coal formation. It is rather an exception to the general appearance of such rocks. It cannot be said to be exactly stratified, but there are regular overflows, or beds of trap, as in volcanic mountains; and different from one another in compactness or degrees of hardness. The columnar structure is not very distinct, but seems to be separated occasionally by fissures containing quartz and carbonate of lime. There is one of these of considerable length and width. They may not have been original cracks, but occasioned by subsequent convulsions, and filled by siliceous and calcareous materials. The rock presents in different places, when newly broken, beautiful veins of quartz, and of jasper, approaching to cornelian. There are strewed around the quarry various balls or masses of decomposed greenstone, of a roundish form, with concentric coatings or layers, which, it is well known, form an excellent soil. The rock is within a few inches of the surface, in which respect it differs greatly from the sandstone quarries in the immediate neighbourhood, which have an alluvial covering of from 10 to 20 feet thick.

There is another of these trap-rock quarries at Redcraigs toll, three miles north from the town of Dunfermline, and another a mile and a half still farther north, near the Outh farm-house, both on the Crieff road, and seen from it. This last quarry has a very curious and interesting appearance, resembling the general aspect of the basaltic pillars at the Giant's Causeway in the north of Ireland. It is not large, is of a semicircular form, and has rather a narrow entrance. At the north-west corner the stones are columnar, and of a pentagonal figure. They lie in a horizontal posi-

tion, the one heaped above the other, and closely and regularly compacted, with the outer ends pointing southward. On the north side the pillars are vertical, on the east arched downwards, on the south inclining or dipping in a bending form to the north, and on the south-west corner dipping to the north-east. Some parts of the greenstone are amygdaloidal, having the cavities filled with carbonate of lime, and some of the fissures are coated with calcareous spar.

There is a great deal of trap-rock, also, on the range of hills lying between the Redcraigs toll and the Roscobie lime-works.

*Freestone or Sandstone Quarries.*—There are several of these in the parish. The chief ones are at Berrylaw and North Urquhart, a mile north-west; at Millhills, a quarter of a mile south-east; and at Sunnysbank, three miles south-east from the town; and at Pittencrieff within it, between Pittencrieff and Golf-Drum Streets. The stone at all these, except the last, is of good quality, and much used in building.

*Fossil Remains in the Sandstone Quarries.*—There have been found at the Berrylaw and North Urquhart quarries many large fossils of the three kinds already named as occurring in the coal-formation, the *Lepidodendron*, the *Stigmara Ficoides*, and the *Sigillaria*. The writer lately obtained a very excellent specimen of the first of these, about 3 feet in length, and one in diameter; and two of the third, one having three branches, the stem and one branch of which are  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet, and the other, having two branches, the stem and one branch of which are  $1\frac{1}{2}$  foot long, and both about 8 inches in diameter. The bark, which is turned into coal, still retains in all of these in some places the black coally structure and substance. On the east side of the Berrylaw rock, and completely imbedded in it, is a large root of the *Sigillaria*, about 4 feet high, nearly upright, apparently standing where it grew, but probably, according to the more prevalent opinion of geologists, transported from its native site by the inundation of some river, and meeting with an obstacle, deposited in its present position, the sedimentary matter of the agitated waters accumulating around it, as well as replacing its own inner substance, which, it is well known, in all fossil trees decayed first, and now forming the sandstone.

In the adjoining North Urquhart rock there was lately seen closely imbedded in it the stem or branch of a fossil tree, 6 or 8



feet long, and 7 or 8 inches in diameter, lying horizontally, and about 40 feet from the surface.

Quarrymen are not fond of meeting with these fossil remains, since, wherever they occur, there are generally cracks, technically called *dries*, which prevent long blocks being taken out.

It is the remark of an old observant quarryman that he has always found the *Lepidodendron* lowest in the rock, then the *Stigmara*, and the *Sigillaria* highest, and that near the last, the rock is in an unsolid loose state; and farther, that he has never seen a root penetrating a layer of earthy matter lying between two beds of stone, while he has noticed it passing through two contiguous beds not so separated.

Petrifactions have been found also in the Pittencrieff quarry, and particularly a species of *Stigmara*, which is thought to be undescribed.

At Millhills quarry, too, there have been got impressions of *Spirifers* and *Pecten papyraceus*, *Producta* on bituminous shale, *Corbula sulcata* in clay-ironstone, and *Spirifera bisulcata*.

The principal specimens of these fossil remains which have been noticed are to be seen in the New Museum of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland, Edinburgh.

*Composition of Hills and Plains.*—The hills are generally composed of greenstone, as is the case in those of Craigluscar and Roscobie. The Hill of Beath, adjoining to the Halbeath Colliery, some of the minerals under which belong to the Marquis of Tweeddale, and are leased by the Halbeath Company, is composed of greenstone, and must have been projected after the coal-strata. For, when the workings were carried under the hill, the strata were observed to rise towards the centre, or rent, through which the greenstone must have been projected.

In the high grounds and plains, at least so far as the coal-formation extends, there are alternate beds of sandstone and blaes (or slate-clay), with balls of ironstone in it. Bituminous shale and indurated or fire-clay frequently intervene, but the first two compose the greatest part of the strata above the coal, and are found in beds, varying from 1 foot to 20 feet in thickness, and to the depth of from 20 to 100 fathoms before reaching the lowest seam of coal, under which sandstone of different colours and textures more generally prevails, to the depth of 50 or 60 fathoms, until it reach the limestone.

*Ores and Simple Minerals.*—Ironstone, to a greater or less ex-

tent, pervades the whole coal-field of the Earl of Elgin, in thin bands and balls, and was once wrought to the extent of 4000 to 5000 tone per annum. But the working of it was discontinued about eight or nine years ago, as a remunerating price could not be obtained for it, on account of the low price of pig-iron, and has not since been resumed. Copper-pyrites, in small quantities, is found imbedded in the clay-ironstone with carbonate of lime at the Elgin Colliery. There is a thin seam of argillaceous ironstone in the Wellwood, Town Hill, and Halbeath Coal-fields, but in all of these it is of an inferior quality, and not sufficiently abundant to render it workable to a profit. It occurs both in veins and nodules at the Townhill Colliery. It is also found in blaes while tiring for lime at the Charleston and Northern Limestone Quarries.

Iron-pyrites is likewise sometimes met with in the roof of the parrot-coal at Halbeath Colliery. Neither the extracting nor purifying of ores is practised in the parish. Some beds of sandstone at the Elgin Collieries contain strong impregnations of alum. Quartz and calcareous spar are found imbedded, and in veins, in the trap-rock at the Town Hill Colliery. Garnets occur in the boulders of mica-slate scattered in that neighbourhood.

*Alluvial Deposites.*—At the Elgin Colliery the alluvial cover above the sandstone is composed of clay, mixed with sand and small rounded stones, and frequently of fragments of the different strata under it. In the working coal-field it varies in thickness from 6 to 18 feet. It is impervious to water, and never produces water of itself. Peat in some instances forms part of the alluvial cover.

At the Wellwood Colliery the alluvial cover is from 6 to 90 feet in thickness, consisting of clay, sand, and large blocks of quartz, greenstone, and other materials. As none of these rocks are in the immediate neighbourhood, the blocks must have been transported from some of the hills by water.

At the Townhill Colliery the alluvial cover, in the higher parts of the ground, consists of a stiff tenacious clay, intermixed with rounded water-worn stones; and in the lower and hollow parts, of a rich vegetable mould, approaching in some places to the nature of peat, under which the clay is again found, resting upon the rock, but much thinner. The covering varies from 3 to 9 feet in thickness.

At Halbeath Colliery the alluvial cover is from 4 to 40 feet



in thickness : and at the Netherbeath Colliery it is about 18 feet, where it is chiefly of a clayey nature.

No remains of plants or animals are known to have been met with in any of these alluvial deposits.

*Soil and Boulders.*—The land towards the north of the town, where the collieries are situated, is generally of inferior quality, but some portions of it are good, and others, from being much improved by draining, yield a fair produce. The soil in that quarter varies from a few inches to 2 or 3 feet in thickness, and chiefly rests on till, but some of it, especially near Lathalmond, where the lime-quarry is, reposes on trap, sandstone, or limestone.

The land towards the south of the town, in which are some of the sandstone quarries that have been mentioned, and the Charleston lime-work, is of excellent quality, in high cultivation, and capable of bearing all sorts of crops. The soil there consists chiefly of a brown loam, resting on rotten trap; but a portion of it is of a light nature, on strong clay, not far from the surface.

*Zoology.—Rare Birds found occasionally in the Parish.—*

Falco Haliaëtus	Parus ater	Alca Torda
peregrinus	caudatus	arctica
cyaneus	palustris	Alle
Æsalon	Caprimulgus europæus	Larus ridibundus
Lanius Excubitor	Hæmatopus ostralegus	crepidatus
Corvus Graculus	Rallus aquaticus	Anas Tadorna
Sturnus vulgaris	Alcedo ispida	Penelope
Turdus torquatus	Scelopax glottis	Ferina
Motacilla Phœnicurus	Tringa macularia	elangula
rubetra	morinella	fuligula
rubecola		

*Botany.—Rare Plants found in the Parish.—*

Hippuris vulgaris	Polygonum viviparum	Thrinicia hirta
Veronica Buxbaumii	Paris quadrifolia	Hieracium Lawsoni
polita	Pyrola secunda	Cichorium Intybus
Fedia mixta	Silene anglica	Senecio saracenicus.
Eleocharis multicaulis	noctiflora	Matricaria Chamomilla
Agrostis Spica-venti	Lythrum salicaria	Anthemis arvensis
Melica nutans	Rubus saxatilis	Cotula
Festuca bromoides	Glaucium luteum	Habenaria albida
Bromus erectus	Nymphæa alba	Epipactis ensifolia
Galium Mollugo	Nuphar lutea	Malaxis paludosa
Potamogeton heterophyllus	Ranunculus hirsutus	Euphorbia Lathyrus
rufescens	Mentha viridis	Sparganium natans
Lysimachia vulgaris	crispa (variety)	Carex divulsa
Primula elatior	piperita	strigosa
veris	Galeopsis Ladanum	fulva
Verbascum nigrum	Stachys ambigua	stricta
Viola hirta	Nasturtium sylvestre	Arun maculatum
Chenopodium olidum	terrestre	Atriplex laciniata
rubrum	Brassica campestris	angustifolia
Peplis portula	Sinapis muralis	Asplenium alternifolium
Tulipa sylvestris	Malva moschata	marinum
Alisma ranunculoides	Vicia sylvatica	Pteris crispa
Trientalis europæa	Tragopogon pratensis	Botrychium Lunaria
Epilobium roseum	major	Ophioglossum vulgatum

There are no forests. The plantations cover about 900 Scotch acres, and are chiefly on the Pitferrane and town properties; the former to the west, and the latter to the north-east, of the burgh. The soil appears to be congenial to almost all sorts of timber, but not all equally so. The wood grown consists chiefly of larch and Scotch fir, with a proportion of oak, beech, elm, plane, ash, and willow.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Ancient and Modern Accounts, Maps, Plans, and Surveys, &c., of the Parish.*—The most ancient and valuable document connected with the parish, in reference particularly to the Monastery which once flourished in it, is “The Auld Register,” or the “*LIBER MONASTERII DE DUNFERMLIN*,” commonly called the Chartulary of Dunfermline. It is a large folio MS. volume, consisting of 169 leaves of vellum, and has long been preserved in the Advocates’ Library at Edinburgh. It is known to have been there at the end of the seventeenth century; but when the first Earl of Haddington (a celebrated antiquary), more than two centuries ago, used it, making a table of its contents, and taking numerous extracts from it, illustrative of the ancient tenures and forms of conveying of Scotland, he does not state where the Register was then deposited.

At the close of the last year (1842), this Chartulary was printed by the Bannatyne Club, as the joint contribution of seven of its members,\* under the editorial care of Cosmo Innes, Esq., advocate, extending, with appendices and tables of contents, to 561 pages quarto.

A table of the contents of two MS. registers is printed along with the Chartulary of Dunfermline, by the Bannatyne Club, from inventories in Lord Haddington’s Collections, preserved in the Advocates’ Library, and collated with the original volumes.

A History of the Town and Parish of Dunfermline was published by the late Rev. John Fernie, one of the parochial ministers in 1815, in 8vo, which contains some useful statistical information, collected with much care and accuracy, applicable to that period. It is now out of print.

Another History of Dunfermline from the earliest records down to 1828, the date of its publication, 12mo, was written by the late

\* Duke of Buckingham, Earl Spencer, late Earl of Rosslyn, the Right Honourable Thomas Grenville, late R. Fergusson of Raith, Esq., James Loch, Esq., and John Richardson, Esq. London.



Mr A. Mercer, author of "Dunfermline Abbey," a poem, with historical illustrations, published in 1819, of a collection of verses in 1838, and of some fugitive pieces which appeared in the "North British Magazine" in 1804, of which he was for the short period of fourteen months editor, and in other periodicals, and who died in Dunfermline only last July 1842; a man whose abilities, education, and literary taste, had they been steadily directed to one definite object of pursuit in life, might, with his inoffensiveness of disposition, have secured for him a higher estimation, and better fortune than unhappily distinguished his latter days.

There was published also in his name, a large, "Historical and Chronological Table of the ancient town of Dunfermline, from 1064 to 1834," on a large sheet, which is an abridgement of an elaborate, valuable, and beautifully written MS. quarto volume, pp. 422, entitled, "Annals of Dunfermline from the earliest Records to 1833," and which was kindly prepared for his benefit by the author, E. Henderson, LL.D., F. R. A. S.

In the Advocates' Library are preserved twelve vols. 4to, bound, of the MS. collections of the late Lieutenant-General Henry Hutton of the Royal Artillery, who for many years was engaged in obtaining materials for a *Monasticon Scotiæ*, an account of all the monastic institutions in this country, but who died (June 1827) before executing his purpose.

The earliest map of the parish, of which I am aware, is contained in a map of the sheriffdome of Fyffe, by Mr James Gordon, parson of Rothiemay, published in 1645. This was prepared from the papers of the famous geographer, Mr Timothy Pont, who took the bearings of the county, and executed draughts not only of it, but of most of the parts of North Britain and its isles. The papers, after his death, came into the possession of Mr Gordon's father, the learned Sir Robert Gordon of Straloch, through Sir John Scot of Scotstarvet, who not only recovered them, when nearly lost or destroyed through carelessness, but supplied their defects. The map is part of "Bleau's Atlas of Scotland."

A Plan of the town of Dunfermline was published in 1823, from an actual survey by J. Wood, Edinburgh; and a map of the parish included, in a very large and excellent one of the counties of Fife and Kinross, was published in 1828, by Messrs Sharp, Greenwood, and Foulner, London, which was republished with improvements in 1841 by Mr Frazer, Cupar Fife.

Two good engraved views, large folio, of the town of Dunfermline, are to be seen in Slezer's "Theatrum Scotiæ," exhibiting some public buildings now gone, as the Queen's, Constabulary, and Baillie Houses, accompanied by letter-press descriptions and illustrations, in Dr Jameson's new edition, Edinburgh, 1814. These views were probably taken about the year 1690.

*Landowners in 1843.*—These, with their respective valuations, as standing in the cess-books of the county, are as follows :

The Right Hon. the Earl of Elgin, . . .	L.4426	19	6
Mrs Madox Blackwood of Pitreavie, . . .	1801	18	5
James Hunt of Pittencrieff, . . .	•1706	15	6
Sir John Halket of Pitferrane, Bart. . . .	1553	8	4
Andrew Moffat Wellwood of Garvock, . . .	1220	0	0
George Robertson Barclay of Keavil, . . .	1008	11	4
Charles Durie of Craigluscar, . . .	702	3	4
Robert Downie of Appin, for Touch, &c. . .	399	13	7
Col. Martin Lindsay of Halbeath, . . .	367	6	8
Adam Rolland of Gask, . . .	317	7	11
Lady Buchan Hepburne of Blackburn, . . .	314	4	7
James Kerr of Middlebank, . . .	310	3	3
Mrs Winstanley, $\frac{1}{2}$ of Pitliver, &c. . . .	305	0	0
Messrs Aitken of Southfod, . . .	283	0	10
The Guildry of Dunfermline, . . .	268	15	11
The Marquis of Tweeddale for Kiersbeath, . .	259	0	0
William Miller of Sunnybank, . . .	228	0	4
Robert Wemyss, Cuttlehill, for Netherbeath, .	220	13	3
James Alexander of Balmule, . . .	215	0	0
John Kirk of Transy, . . .	155	11	8
James Stenhouse of Northfod, . . .	175	16	9
James Aitken of St Margaret's Stone, . . .	152	1	8
James Spowart of Venturefair, . . .	66	7	1
Capt. Matthew Moncrieff of Broomhead, . . .	114	18	8
Mrs Gairdner of Woodmill, . . .	140	14	10
Alex. Struthers of Brucefield, . . .	139	14	4
Town of Dunfermline, . . .	137	5	10
Dr Abercrombie of Netherbeath, . . .	136	0	0
Sir Robert Preston's Trustees, for Lochend, .	133	0	0
Robert Douglas of Abbey Parks, . . .	126	0	0
Henry Flockhart of Easter Craigdukie, . . .	117	12	0
Andrew Main, part of Northfod, . . .	111	5	10
William Walker of Meldrum's Mill, . . .	110	5	2
Mrs Campbell of Headwell, . . .	108	4	0
Dr John Liddel of Brieryhill, . . .	107	11	6
Trustees of Henry Brown of Northfod, . . .	106	2	6
Robert Curror of Wester Craigdukie, . . .	100	0	0
Sir John Malcolm's Tutors, for Netherbeath, .	95	6	8
Alexander Colvill of Dunduff, . . .	81	0	0
Miss Aitken of Lochhead, . . .	78	2	6
James Aitken of Grassmuirland, . . .	58	3	4
Society of Gardeners, Dunfermline, . . .	49	8	6
Hugh Coventry of Bonnington, . . .	34	0	0
William Blackwood, for North Baldrige, . .	25	0	0
Robert Clark, Limekilns, . . .	19	0	0

\* L.400 of this sum not assessable for poor-rates, but for other burdens in the parish, being for Logie in Inverkeithing parish, *quoad civilia*.



Mrs Capt. Wardlaw, for part of Garvock,	.	.	.	L.15	0	0
James Douglas,	.	.	.	15	0	0
James Cusine, Clayacres,	.	.	.	9	8	6
Alex. M'Kinlay's feu,	.	.	.	2	15	0
J. Duncanson's do.	.	.	.	2	3	11
John Anderson's do.	.	.	.	1	1	2
George Cooper's do.	.	.	.	3	15	8
P. Livingston's do.	.	.	.	2	5	11
W. and J. Rutherford's do.	.	.	.	1	4	5

Total valued rental, as corrected in 1843, . L.18,636 5 4

*Parochial Registers.*—These consist of 19 folio volumes, the first 6 of which contain registers of baptisms and marriages jointly, and of the remaining 13, there are 9 of baptisms and 4 of marriages, separately. With the exception of a blank in the marriages from 1745 to 1750, they are continuous from 16th July 1561, the date of the first entry, to the present period. Where the baptisms and marriages are recorded together, the latter are on the margin. Some of the old volumes are beautifully written, and the ink is black and still retains its shining quality.

There is a register of deaths from 1617 to 1657, small quarto, very distinctly and beautifully written. It was recovered by me very lately from a person into whose hands it had shortly before accidentally come. It had evidently been at one time in the possession of one of my predecessors, but it had afterwards passed from him to others not officially connected with the parish, and seems to have been altogether lost sight of.

A very accurate register of burials has been kept in a folio volume since 1833. The superintendent of the churchyard takes charge of it.

The kirk-session records consist of 11 folio volumes. The first regular entry on them is dated the last day of June 1640. The minutes for the first 45 years are very neatly and distinctly written, apparently, too, in the same hand, but abound in contractions. With the exception of a blank between 1689 and 1701, the volumes are continuous to the present period.

All these registers and records are well bound, lettered, and dated on the back, and in good preservation.

*Antiquities.\*—King Malcolm Canmore's Tower.*—All that now remains of this ancient edifice is a connected angle, or fragment of the south and west walls: the length of the former of which is 31, and of the latter, 44 feet. The south wall, in 1790, was 49½

\* A full account of the antiquities is given in the writer's History of Dunfermline. Only a few can be here shortly noticed.

feet. Their present height is about 8 feet. They have been of great thickness, but all the hewn stones are removed from them. Apparently the lower part of the ancient tower, when entire, was about 50 feet broad, from north to south, and 60 from east to west, so that the building must have been nearly square. It is about 70 feet above the level of the rivulet below.

The date of this building is uncertain, but it is supposed to be as ancient as the middle of the eleventh century, probably between 1056 and 1070.

From the nature of the ground, the tower or castellated palace of Malcolm III. could not have been a very spacious edifice, and if an idea of its structure can be formed from the coarse fragment which remains, it must have been of a very simple kind. Still, here were married, and lived in conjugal affection, this famous monarch and his excellent queen, Margaret.

*Palace.*—A little to the south-east of King Malcolm Canmore's Tower, and east side of the rivulet close to the verge of the glen, in a very romantic situation, are the ruins of a palace, once the residence of the sovereigns of Scotland. Only the south-west wall, and a small portion of the eastern end of the edifice remain. The wall which overlooks the glen is 205 feet in length, and 60 in height outside, supported by 8 buttresses. The depth from the sole of the window in the recess on the first floor is 31 feet. At the western end tradition still points out a high window, now completely covered with ivy, and the chimney, nearly entire, of the room in which that ill-advised and unfortunate monarch, Charles the First, was born, which event occurred on the 19th November 1600. This, too, was the birth-place of his sister Elizabeth, on the 19th August 1596, afterwards Queen of Bohemia, from whom her present Majesty is descended.

Near the south-eastern extremity of this massive wall, there is in the ceiling of a high and projecting oriel window, the third from the end, a large antique piece of sculpture, quite visible from below, which was discovered in 1812, when some repairs were made on the palace; and of which an excellent cast was taken about three years ago, now in my possession. It contains in bas-relief a well executed carving (in stone) of the passage in the first chapter of St Luke's gospel, usually termed the *Annunciation*. There is a representation of the angel (Gabriel) with outspread wings, and of the Virgin Mary in a devotional attitude, facing each other. The angel holds in his right hand, which is very unusual, a scourge



or lash, the emblem probably of discipline, and in his left a scroll proceeding towards the Virgin, on which is inscribed part of the salutation to her in large old Roman capitals, "*Ave gratia plena Dns. Tec.*" (*Dominus Tecum*), "Hail full with favour, the Lord be with you." Before the Virgin is a table with an open book on it, containing her answer, also in Latin, and with some abbreviations. The words are not very legible on the cast, but having seen them as taken in 1812 by a zealous antiquary of that day, I can partly trace them, and am satisfied that they are all there, although the space is but small. They are in small Roman capitals, as exhibited in the engraving, and are as follows: *Ecce ancilla di (domini.) Fiat michi (mihi) S. V. T. (secundum verbum tuum,)* "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it unto me according to thy word." At the top is a human head and face with a crown of glory, the emblem of God the Father, and to the left, a dove, the symbol of the Spirit, descending amid rays of light, proceeding from him upon the head of the Virgin. In front of the table before the Virgin is a pot with a lily in it, the emblem of purity, and the usual accompaniment of the Virgin, and in front of it again, at the lower centre of the stone, is a coat armorial, consisting of a shield bearing a cheveron between three crescents. The arms are those of the Dury family, ancient possessors of the lands of Dury in Fife, in the reign of Alexander II., and of whom George Dury, a descendant, was the last abbot and perpetual commendator of the abbey of Dunfermline, and arch-dean of St Andrews at the Reformation, and for about twenty years previous.

At the bottom of the whole device is the date 1100, in Arabic numerals, the cyphers being of the form of diamonds, and before it is some contracted word not easily legible on the cast, which has hitherto been given as CHI. the abbreviation for *Christi*; but the probability is that it is XPI. the Greek letters, which are the usual contraction for the name of our Lord.

The date 1100 has given great trouble to antiquaries. The question is, whether this date was engraven at the time specified, and whether it be meant to indicate the period when the palace was built. From various considerations, my own opinion is, that the stone in its present state could not have been sculptured at that period. As to the time of its execution, my conjecture is, that it was at the close of the reign of James V. and the commencement of the abbotship of George Dury, probably between 1539 and 1541, and perhaps contemporaneous with the execution of the coat of arms,

just noticed, of that monarch and his second queen soon after their marriage. The date 1100, too, may have been put upon it, as the then reputed age of the older part of the palace, which in that case would be built by King Edgar, son of Malcolm III., whose reign was rather peaceful.

This opinion of the antiquity of this part of the edifice, as well as of the addition made to it by James IV., was expressed also by the heritors of the parish, and magistrates and council of the town, in a memorial presented in 1836 to the Commissioners of Woods and Forests.

But as no ancient and authoritative historical or other document is known to exist, fixing the age of the palace, it must still, it is to be feared, remain in some obscurity.

*Subterraneous Passage.*—Near the north-west corner in the north wall there is an aperture, which was originally about 4 feet high by  $2\frac{1}{2}$  wide, but from the accumulation of the earth on the floor of the cellar, the height is now only  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet. This is the entrance to a long dark subterraneous passage, with various offshoots, and having a total length of about 100 feet. Not satisfied with some of the accounts and conjectures current concerning it, I resolved to make a personal exploration, which, with the aid of competent persons, was done early in January 1843.

*Queen's House.*—This building was adjacent to the palace, on the north-east, and communicated with it by a gallery. It stood in the centre of the street to the north of the present arched or pended gateway, and reached near to the great west door of the church. It was so named as having been erected, or at least restored by Queen Anne of Denmark, and having been her personal property during life, and not a mere jointure house to which she had a title on the demise of her husband.

Immediately to the north of the Queen's House stood the Constabulary House, or residence of the Constable of the Royal Edifices, and near to it the Bailie House, or residence of the Deputy Bailie of Regality.

*Frater-hall.*—Immediately to the south of the old Abbey Church are the ruins of the Frater-hall or Refectory,—the dining-room of the brethren or ecclesiastics. There remain of it only the south-front wall and the west gable, in the former of which there are nine tall handsome windows.

In the west gable there is a large Gothic window, much ad-



mired, quite entire, 20 feet high by 16 broad, with six mullions, and a great deal of tracery above.

*Pended Tower* is a massive oblong building, connecting the Monastery with the Palace, and elegantly arched or pended beneath, forming a gateway across the street, from which circumstance it is commonly called the *Pends* (from *pendeo*, to hang.) What remains of it is 47 feet in height, 35 in length from north to south, 16 in breadth at the northern, and  $18\frac{1}{2}$  at the southern arch. There had been a gate at the former one. The archway is groined with central ornamented keystones, and strong ribbed arches, and the windows present a fine specimen of the pointed and rounded style of architecture.

*Abbey Old Church.*—This is all that remains of the ancient and large ecclesiastical edifice of this place, spared from the ravages committed first by the English in the fourteenth century, and afterwards by the Reformers in their zeal against Popery.

This part of the building formed the nave of the Abbey Church when completed, or the vestibule or passage to the principal portion of it, where the choir was, as it now does to the new place of worship.

*Ancient Eastern Church.*—The length of the choir or ancient eastern church within walls to supposed Lady Aisle, was 100 feet, and to supposed great altar 90 feet; its breadth, clear of the columns, 20 feet, and with these and side aisles, 55 feet. The length of the transepts was 115, and their breadth 73 feet. The extreme length of the whole ancient ecclesiastical edifice outside was 275 feet, and its extreme breadth 130.

Till 1818, there were standing four very tall and beautiful Gothic windows, which formed part of the north wall of the north transept of the Abbey, but which were removed at the commencement of the building of the New Church in that year.

*Royal Tombs.*—It is well known that the celebrated Iona or Icolmkill, in the Western Isles, was originally, and, for many centuries, the place of royal sepulture. But if the testimony of Boece can be credited on this point, as it has generally been, Malcolm III. changed it to Dunfermline, appointing the church which he had built there to be thenceforth the common cemetery of the kings of Scotland. It is certain, too, from other and older authorities, as the *Chronicon de Mailros*, *Chronicon de Lanercost*, *Fordun*, and *Winton*, that Dunfermline church was so used from the time of Malcolm III., during many succeeding reigns. At

present, all that remains, perceptible by the eye, of this ancient and once splendid royal burying-place, is the tombstone of Queen or St Margaret, already noticed, which is a large horizontal slab of coarse blue marble or limestone, in two tiers, about three feet above the surface, at the east end of the new church, outside, covering the spot in which, it is understood, were once deposited not only her remains, but those of her husband, Malcolm III. There are to be seen on it six indentures, which, tradition says, are the prints of candlesticks, in which candles were kept burning; and, it is added, that a proprietor in Fife, at Pitiloch, in Falkland parish, once paid an impost for lighting them.

Besides Malcolm III., his Queen Margaret, and their eldest son, Prince Edward, named by Winton Edward I., there were, according to different authors, interred at Dunfermline, the following royal and distinguished personages:—Edward, eldest son of Malcolm III.; King Edgar; Alexander I.; David I.; Malcolm IV.; Malcolm, Earl of Athole and his Countess, in the reign of William the Lion; Alexander III., and Margaret, his first Queen; David and Alexander, his sons; Robert I., and Elizabeth his Queen; Mathildis, their daughter; Annabella Drummond, Queen of Robert III., and mother of James I.; Constantine and William Ramsay, Earls of Fife; Thomas Randolph, Earl of Murray, nephew of Robert I., Regent of Scotland during the minority of David II.; Robert, Duke of Albany, and Earl of Fife and Menteith, Governor of Scotland.

It may be proper to answer a very natural inquiry which is often put, What evidence is there for believing that King Robert Bruce was interred here? It is gratifying to think, that the evidence for this fact is clear, varied, and strong.

In the first place, the King himself selected Dunfermline as the place of his sepulture. For it appears from the Chartulary of Dunfermline that he gave the church of Kinross and chapel of Urwell to the monastery of Dunfermline, not only in honour of his predecessors buried in it, but on account of his own sepulture, which, it is said, “I have specially chosen among them;”<sup>\*</sup> and again, “he chose his own interment to be among the kings of Scotland, in the honourable monastery of Dunfermline.”<sup>†</sup> Then Barbour and Fordun, two of our earliest chroniclers, record that he had been buried here, and in what may be presumed, the very

<sup>\*</sup> Printed Chart., p. 229–30 (1315.)

<sup>†</sup> Printed Char., p. 412.



spot now discovered. Barbour gives the following account of the funeral :—

“ I hop that nane that is on lyve\*  
 The lamentacioun suld discryve†  
 That that folk for thair lard maid.‡  
 And quhen thai lang thus sorrowit had,  
 Thai haiff had him to Dunferlyne :—  
 And him solempley erdyt§ syne  
 In a fayr tumb, intill the quer.  
 Byschappys and prelatys, that thar wer,  
 Assoilzeit|| him, quhen the service  
 Was done as thai couth best dewiss :¶  
 And syne, on the tothyr day,  
 Sary and wa ar went thair way,  
 And he debowaillyt was clenly,  
 And bawmyt syne richly.”\*\*

Fordun, too, who wrote after Barbour, and who acknowledges the excellence of his work, says, that “ the King was interred at the monastery of Dunfermline, in the middle of the choir, with due honour.”†† And farther, as quoted by Morton, in his *Monastic Annals of Teviotdale*, p. 232, “ magnificently interred under the grand altar of the church of Dunfermline Abbey.”†† Both these early writers mention the choir, and the latter, the middle of it, as the situation of his grave, and the spot found precisely corresponds with this, as far as the form of the ancient building can be ascertained, for it is in a line with the exact centre of the Abbey Church.

Farther, it is well known that Bruce, in the view of his approaching dissolution, which took place at Cardross, near Dumbarton, on the 7th June 1329, from a severe disease, then termed leprosy, at the age of fifty-five, in the twenty-fourth year of his arduous and glorious reign, reckoning from his coronation at Scone, took a pledge from his faithful friend Sir James Douglas to carry his heart, on his decease, to Jerusalem, and humbly to deposit it in the Church of the Holy Sepulchre there, as the only mode which he then had of fulfilling a vow, which he had made as soon as he restored the peace and freedom of his kingdom, to undertake an expedition to the Holy Land against the enemies of the Christian faith. This pledge, the gallant knight, on the demise of his be-

\* Alive.

† Describe.

‡ Lord.

§ Interred.

|| Assoilzeit. As King Robert was excommunicated by the Pope, for the murder of Cuming in Dumfries, on account of treachery, so far back as 1305, his body could not receive the accustomed rites and ceremonies of what was then deemed “ Christian burial” in consecrated ground, till this sentence was removed by ecclesiastical authority. This may explain what is here referred to by the poet. Some authors, however, state that he was pardoned in 1309.—Guthrie’s *Hist. of Scot.* ii. p. 205.

¶ Devise.

\*\* The Bruce, Edin. 1820, 4to, B. xiv., l. 871–884.

†† *Scotichron.* xiii. 13.

‡‡ *Scotichron.* xiii. 20, 14.

loved master, immediately went to redeem, along with a numerous retinue, bearing the heart of the monarch enclosed in a silver casket, suspended from his neck by a silver chain. But, in passing through Spain, in his progress to Jerusalem, he assisted Alphonso, the young King of Leon and Castile, against the Saracens, and after exhibiting feats of valour, he fell in battle, when his body, with the casket and its precious contents, were conveyed to Scotland, under the charge of Sir William Keith, one of his surviving companions. His remains were interred in the Church of Douglas, the sepulchre of his forefathers, and the heart of Bruce was entombed in Melrose Abbey, by the Earl of Moray, then Regent of Scotland.

Now, in order to carry into execution this object, it behoved the body of Bruce to be embalmed, and accordingly it exhibited full evidence of having been so, as the metrical account also of the funeral by Barbour, just quoted, states that it was.

The *sternum* or breast-bone was found sawed asunder longitudinally from top to bottom, according to the awkward mode adopted by the anatomists of those days, for reaching the heart, with the view of complying with the sovereign's dying command, and a small box was discovered in the vicinity, supposed by some to contain the entrails.

The whole appearances, too, of the tomb and body, as described, indicate them to have been those of a person of high consideration, while, in the immediate neighbourhood, were found numerous fragments of fine white and black marble well polished, carved and gilt, in all probability the remains of a monument which had been erected over the grave inside the church, and which had been demolished at the destruction of the Abbey. Some of these exhibit small ornamental columns, and one of them an animal in a reclining posture. Along with a few of these in the Antiquarian Museum, Edinburgh, found long prior to the discovery of Bruce's tomb, and erroneously labelled as having belonged to the tomb of Malcom Canmore, there is a small head, cut in soft bluish stone, seemingly calm stone, the same as what many of the other ornaments are made of, with a crown on it. The face is unfortunately destroyed, but there are large curls at each ear, of the form and style seen in the coins of Robert the Bruce, so that there is every probability that this was meant to represent his head. From the Chamberlain Rolls, too, it appears that the king himself had ordered, during his long and tedious illness, such a monument to be



erected ; that it was of a very splendid nature, and that, probably from its being beyond the skill of the artists of this country at that period, it had been executed in Paris, and conveyed hitherto by the way of Bruges.

What would have completed this body of evidence to us would have been a plate with an actual inscription, signifying that this was the tomb of Bruce ; but the probability is, that such a plate made of brass, as was then common, with an inscription round the edge, had been upon the monument, and carried off at the plunder of the abbey, or destroyed.\*

Fordun has preserved Bruce's epitaph, which it is likely was inscribed upon the tomb, and which I have not seen before quoted.

It is this—

“ HIC JACET INVICTUS ROBERTUS, REX BENEDICTUS,  
QUI SUA GESTA LEGIT, REPETIT QUOT BELLA PEREGIT,  
AD LIBERTATEM PERDUXIT, PER PROBITATEM,  
REGNUM SCOTORUM ; NUNC VIVAT IN ARCE POLORUM.”†

*King Robert Bruce's Sword and Helmet.*—These interesting relics are at Broomhall House, about three miles south from the town. In the Scots Magazine for 1781, there is an engraving of them, along with the following description :—“ They are of steel, and they have acquired a clear blackish colour from age. The sword is a two-handed one, and the handle is covered with black leather. Both the sword and the helmet were presented by King Robert's son, King David Bruce, to his cousin Sir Robert Bruce of Clackmannan, and they have been preserved in Clackmannan Castle by the descendants of this Sir Robert, with the greatest veneration, till the present time. Though there be no written documents to instruct the sword and helmet having been presented to Sir Robert Bruce, yet the above account has the sanction of the universal tradition of the family and of the country around.”

They are now in the possession of the Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, having (along with the genealogical family tree, dated 1686, which contains a lengthened history of the descent of the

\* A well-executed and appropriate plate, bearing the appearances of antiquity, was found at the grave, after the re-interment of Bruce, but it was satisfactorily ascertained not to be ancient. It was the doing of a few individuals, as a *jeu d'esprit*, which would have been harmless enough, had it been acknowledged shortly after producing its intended effect.

† “ Here lies the invincible Robert, blessed King.

Let him who reads his exploits, repeat how many wars he carried on ;  
He led the kingdom of the Scots to freedom, by his uprightness,  
Now let him live in the citadel of the Heavens.”—*Scotichron.* viii. 15.

family, but from its worm-eaten condition now scarcely legible) been bequeathed to the late Earl at the end of the last century, by Katharine Bruce, widow of Henry Bruce, Esq., last proprietor of Clackmannan, and direct representative of that very ancient and distinguished house. There is also the nuptial bed of Queen Anne of Denmark, at Broomhall House, and her amry at Logie House.

*Mr Paton's Collection of Antiquities.*—This collection is most interesting and valuable, and, perhaps of the kind, unequalled by any in Scotland, in the hands of a private collector. It consists of several curious and ancient pieces of furniture, believed to have belonged to Dunfermline Palace, along with others from Holyrood, Linlithgow, Stirling, and Falkland Palaces, Lochleven Castle, &c., collected by Mr Joseph N. Paton, and contained in his cottage in Wooser's Alley, situated at the head of a deep ravine towards the north-west of the town. Some articles from this palace, which once belonged to the collection, were procured from him some years ago, for his late Majesty George IV.

*Monastery.*—The monastery of Dunfermline is generally believed to have been founded by King Malcolm III., towards the end of the eleventh century. The authority for this rests on King David's confirmations of his father's grants, recorded in the Chartulary, as well as on the fact, of which evidence has been produced of Malcolm having built a church here, which itself is sometimes styled the Monastery.

The monastery was dedicated to the Holy Trinity; and Queen Margaret, who died in 1093, was afterwards raised to the rank of tutelar saint.

## LIST OF ABBOTS.

	Duration of Abbotship. A. D.	NAMES.	Causes of Removal.
I.	1128-1154.....	Galfrid I. (Galfridus, Gosfrid, or Geoffry),	Died.
II.	1154-1178.....	Galfrid II.	Died.
III.	1178-1198.....	Archibald (Erkenbaldus, Archombaldus),	Died.
IV.	1198-1202.....	Robert I. de Berewick,	Deposed.
V.	1202-1223.....	Patrick I.	Died.
VI.	1223.....	William I.	Died.
VII.	1223-1238.....	William II.	Died.
VIII.	1238-1240.....	Gaufrid III.	Died.
IX.	1240-1252.....	Robert II. de Keldelecht,	Resigned.
X.	1252-1256.....	John I.	Died.
XI.	1256-1270.....	Matthew,	
XII.	1270-1275.....	Simon,	Deposed.
XIII.	1275-1296 } (at least) }	.....Ralph (Radulphus de Grenlaw).	



LIST OF ABBOTS.—*Continued.*

	Duration of Abbotship. A. D.	NAMES.	Causes of Removal.
XIV.	1309-1313 } (at least)	.....Hugh.	
XV.	1316-1327 } (at least)	.....Robert III. de Craill.	
XVI.	1331-1353.....	Alexander I. de Ber, .....	Died.
XVII.		.....John II. Blak.	
XVIII.		.....John III. of Stramglaw.	
XIX.	1363.	.....John IV.	
XX.	1365.	.....John V. of Balygirnach.	
XXI.	1380-1395 } (at least)	.....John VI.	
XXII.	1399-1409 } (at least)	.....John VII. de Torry.	
XXIII.	1413-1419 } (at least)	.....William III. de Sancto Andrea.	
XXIV.	1437-1442 } (at least)	.....Andrew I.	
XXV.	1445-1472.....	Richard de Bothuel.	
XXVI.	1472-1482.....	Henry Creichtoun.	
XXVII.	1483-1490.....	Adam.	
XXVIII.	1494-1499.....	George I.	
XXIX.	1500 } (at least)	.....Robert IV. Blacader.	
XXX.	1502-1504.....	James I. Stuart.....	Died.
XXXI.	1504-1510 } or 1511 }	.....James II. Beton or Bethune,.....	Resigned.
XXXII.	1511-1513.....	Alexander II. Stuart, .....	{ Slain in battle.
XXXIII.	1515-1516.....	James III. Hepburn, .....	Resigned.
XXXIV.	1516-1522.....	Andrew II. Forman,.....	Died.
XXXV.	1522-1539.....	James II. Beton or Bethune ( <i>again</i> ), .....	Died.
XXXVI.	1539-1561 } or later }	.....George II. Dury,.....	Died.
XXXVII.	1584.. .....	Robert V. Pitcairn, .....	{ Banished and died.
XXXVIII.	1585-1587.....	Patrick II. Gray, Master of Gray, the 7th Lord Gray, .....	Banished.
XXXIX.	1587 .....	George III. Gordon, the 6th Earl of Huntly,...	Resigned.

In 1593 the Abbey was perpetually annexed to the Crown.

The Abbey long enjoyed a high celebrity, partly on account of its preserving the relics of St Margaret, the tutelar saint, and of its being the place of royal sepulture, and partly from the magnitude and splendour of its buildings, and its great wealth. It seems to have attained its highest repute about the middle and close of the 13th century, during the long and prosperous reign of Alexander III., when it had become one of the most magnificent and opulent monastic establishments in Scotland. Indeed, Matthew of Westminster, an English historian of that period, says, in regard to its extent, that its limits were so ample as to contain within its precincts three carucates of land, (or as much arable ground as could be tilled with three ploughs in a year), and so many princely edifices, that three distinguished

sovereigns, with their retinue, might be accommodated with lodgings at the same time, without inconvenience to one another.

Of its wealth we may form an idea, when it is mentioned, that almost the whole of the lands in the western, and part of those in the southern and eastern districts of Fife, various lands in other counties, and at one time the barony of Musselburgh (then denominated Musselburghshire), in Mid-Lothian, belonged to it. This last place, however, was afterwards separated from it, and converted into a distinct lordship, in favour of the Lord Chancellor Thirlestane. The following are some of the remote places from which its ample revenues were derived, conferred either by Scottish sovereigns or opulent subjects, clerical or lay, at various periods, from motives of gratitude or piety:—Kildun, near Dingwall, Buckhaven, Carnbee, Crail, Newburn, Kinglassie, Kirkcaldy, Abbotshall, Kinghorn, Burntisland, named also Wester-Kinghorn, Kinross, Orwell, Perth, Scone, Bendothy, Kirkmichael, Dunkeld, Dollar, Tillicoultry, Clackmannan, Stirling, Logie, near Stirling, Linlithgow, Cramond, Liberton, Maistertoun, in Newbottle, Newton, Inveresk, Musselburgh, Tranent, Haddington, Berwick, Coldingham, Roxburgh, Renfrew; besides the immediately contiguous parishes, Inverkeithing, Beath, Saline, Cleish, Carnock, Torryburn, and, of course, Dunfermline itself.

*Churches and Chapels of the Monastery.*—The following is an Alphabetical List of all the Churches and Chapels, the patronage of which belonged to the Monastery of Dunfermline, along, generally, with a right to the teinds and lands pertaining to them. The names of the donors, too, and the dates of the donation, are given, so far as these can be ascertained. Exact accuracy, however, as to these is unattainable, as the fact of the donation is often mentioned, only in a charter of confirmation, and there left quite general:—

No.	Names of Churches and Chapels.	Donors.	Dates.
I.	Abercrombie (Crombie) } Chapel, Torryburn, Fife, }	King Malcolm IV.,... ..	1153-1163.
II.	Abercrombie Church,.....	Malcolm, 7th Earl of Fife,	1203-1214.
III.	Bendachin (Bendothy, } Perthshire, ..... }	.....	Before 1219.
IV.	Calder (Kaledour), Edin- } burghshire, ..... }	Duncan, 5th Earl of Fife, } and Ela, his Countess, }	1154.
V.	Carnbee, Fife,.....	.....	1561.
VI.	Cleish Church or Chapel, } Fife,..... }	Malcolm, 7th Earl of Fife,	1203-1229.
VII.	Cousland Chapel (parish of } Cranston, East Lothian), }	.....	Before 1159.



No.	Names of Churches and Chapels.	Donors.	Dates.
VIII.	Dunipace Chapel (parish of Larbert, Stirlingshire), ... }	.....	Before 1163.
IX.	Dunkeld, Perthshire,.....	King Malcolm IV.,.....	1153-1165.
X.	St Giles, Edinburgh, .....	.....	Before 1560.
XI.	Glinen, perhaps in Perthshire, .....	King Malcolm IV.,.....	1153-1165.
XII.	Hailes (Colinton), Edinburghshire, .....	Ethelred, son of Malcolm } Canmore, .....	1095-1124.
XIII.	Inveresk, Edinburghshire,...	King David I.,.....	1124-1152.
XIV.	Inverkeithing, Fife, .....	Waldeve, son of Gospatric,	Before 1554.
XV.	Inverkeithing Chapel, .....	King Malcolm IV.,.....	1153-1165.
XVI.	Keith (Humbie), Haddingtonshire, .....	King Alexander I.,.....	1107-1124.
XVII.	Kellin, (Kelly), Fife, suppressed, .....	King Malcolm IV., .....	1153-1165.
XVIII.	Kinross, .....	King Robert I.,.....	1315.
XIX.	Kinghorn (Little), Fife, .....	.....	Before 1188.
XX.	Kinghorn Wester, or Burnt-island, Fife,..... }	.....	1184.
XXI.	Kirkcaldy, Fife,.....	King David I.,.....	1124-1152.
XXII.	Kinglassie, Fife,.....	.....	Before 1158.
XXIII.	Melville (now Lasswade and Dalkeith),..... }	Galfridus de Maleville, .....	1188.
XXIV.	Moulin (Perthshire),.....	Malcolm, 2d Earl of Athole,	About 1170.
XXV.	Newlands, Perthshire, .....	John de Grabame, .....	In 1317.
XXVI.	Newton, Edinburghshire,.... }	Elwinus Renner, and Ada, } his wife, .....	Before 1164.
XXVII.	Newburn, Fife,.....	King David I., .....	1124-1152.
XXVIII.	North Queensferry Chapel,	King Robert I.,.....	1306-1328.
XXIX.	Orwell, Kinross-shire,.....	King Robert I.,.....	In 1315.
XXX.	Perth (St John Baptist), ...	King David I., .....	1124-1152.
XXXI.	..... St. Leonard's,.....	.....	Before 1163.
XXXII.	..... Chapel of the Castle, ..	.....	1164.
XXXIII.	} Stirling, two churches, ...	King David I., .....	1124-1152.
XXXIV.			
XXXV.	Stirling, Chapel of the Castle, .....	King Alexander I.,.....	1107-1124.
XXXVI.	Strathardolf (Kirkmichael, Perthshire), .....	King William the Lion,....	1165-1189.
XXXVII.	Wymet (annexed to Newton, Edinburghshire), .....	King David I., ... ..	1124-1152.

The cells or priories of Urquhart and Pluscardine, in Morayshire, and of Coldingham in Berwickshire, anciently belonged to the monastery of Dunfermline.

*Privilege of Regality.*—The abbey possessed the very important right or privilege of a free regality, that is, had an exclusive civil and criminal jurisdiction over the occupiers of lands belonging to it.

The civil jurisdiction of the regality was equivalent to that of a sheriff, but its criminal was royal, having power of life and death. The abbot, as the Lord of regality, did not usually preside in the court himself, but he appointed a bailie to officiate for him, who could try capital offences. And such was the power of the abbot's court, that if any accused person, residing within the territory of the regality, were taken to another court, the abbot could, by

himself or procurator, appear before that other court, however high, even of the King's justiciar, and *repledge*, as it was called, or judicially demand back the delinquent to be tried before the tribunal of his own district. As early as the reign of David I., offenders, within the territories of the abbey are declared to be amenable only to the court of the Holy Trinity and the abbot of Dunfermline. James II., at the instance of abbot Richard Bothwell, exempted the abbey from the obligation of appearing before his courts in Fife and Clackmannan, by reason of the lands of Luscreviot and Dollar, which belonged to it, and he granted a letter, empowering the abbey to repledge any inhabitants of these lands, detained by his courts to the court, of regality, in 1449. This baneful privilege, it would appear, had been extended to a particular family of the name of Makaroun or Kynmacaroun; but, in consequence of the murmurs of the country, and for bridling the multitude of transgressors pretending to be of the same race, the King found it expedient to abolish this power possessed by the monastery in their case. However he removed the restriction in 1459.

At the Reformation, in 1560, the peculiar power of *Regality*, possessed by the monastery, did not cease. It only passed into other hands, those of influential noblemen, who also received much of the temporal property of the extruded monks.

The jurisdiction in question, along with the lands of the monastery, first devolved on Robert Pitcairn, archdean of St Andrews, who held them *in commendam*, or trust, and who afterwards became Secretary of State to James VI.

In 1580, four years before the decease of this person, when he had reached an advanced age, he and the convent of Dunfermline created the office of *Heritable Bailie of the Regality*, and by charter, dated 15th November of that year, conferred it on David Durie of Durie, (the nephew, it is supposed, of George, the former abbot, and who had previously exercised the office of regality bailie under the abbot, but without any written title to it), and his heirs-male in fee, and in inheritance for ever.

In 1596, David Durie, the original bailie, with consent of his eldest son and heir-apparent, resigned his office and its emoluments into the hands of Queen Anne, as lady of Dunfermline, in favour of, and for new infestment of the same, to be made and granted to Alexander Seton, President of the Court of Session, by the title of Lord Urquhart, afterwards Earl of Dunfermline.



From his family it subsequently passed into that of the Marquis of Tweeddale.

In the year 1780, the last renewal of the crown-lease in favour of the Tweeddale family having come to an end, the Marquis of Tweeddale again applied for it, but without success, in consequence of a counter application having been made for it by the vassals of the lordship. A new lease was accordingly granted to the Countess of Rothes, the Earl of Elgin, and others, as trustees for themselves and the rest of their vassals, to endure for nineteen years, commencing with crop 1780, at the yearly rent of L.100.

In 1748, the heritable jurisdictions of Scotland were all abolished; but compensations were given to the respective parties concerned, according to the opinion of the Court of Session, as to the amount of loss during life sustained by them. The whole sum, voted by Parliament for this purpose, was about L.150,000, out of which the Marquis of Tweeddale received L.2672, 7s. as the value of the bailiary of the regality of Dunfermline, and Mr William Black L.500, as that of his office, as clerk to the regality.

Besides the office of bailie of the regality, there was also that of *Constable, or Keeper of the Palace*, and other royal edifices, and of the adjoining yards and pleasure-grounds, for the maintenance of which office, the teinds of Masterton and Pitliver were paid.

There was also the heritable office of *Mayor, or Serjeant*, afterwards named *Provost*, or Head officer of the regality, instituted in 1579, a year before that of heritable bailie. He was immediately below the depute-bailie, and, on some occasions which are specified, he was empowered to exercise a certain measure of civil and criminal jurisdiction.

There was lastly the office of *Heritable Admiral* of the whole lordship of Dunfermline, except Musselburgh, once held by Ludovick, Duke of Lennox, Great Admiral of Scotland, but resigned by him on the 24th December 1612, to Queen Anne of Denmark. The duties of this office would have reference to the shipping, fishing, &c. on the water adjoining to the lands of the regality, and there were certain perquisites attached to it.

All these offices came into the possession of the Earl of Dunfermline, and subsequently of the Marquis of Tweeddale. Although none of the offices any longer exist, the Tweeddale family still enjoy the fees or salaries, which originally belonged to them, and collect them under their respective names of bailie, consta-

ble, serjeant or mayor fees. None, I believe, are now paid as admiralty fees, these not being derivable from land.

*Memorable Historical Events.*—Only a few of these can be briefly noticed.

The Chartulary records one important fact respecting the homage formerly claimed by England from the Scottish Kings. It is a deed “concerning the homage which Alexander III., King of Scots, paid to Edward I., King of England, for his lands which he held in the kingdom of England.” This was in 1278.

Edward I. visited Dunfermline in 1291, 1296, 1303, and 1304.

In 1303, he took up his winter quarters here, where he was joined by his Queen and a part of his nobility, and employed himself in receiving the submission of those Scottish barons and great men who had not made their peace during his progress through the kingdom in 1296. It was at this period, also, previous to his departure, which, according to some, took place in February, and others in March following, that his soldiers, doubtless by his orders or with his approbation, shewed their gratitude for the ample and magnificent accommodation which they had so long enjoyed here, by setting fire to the Abbey, whereby it was reduced to a shadow of what it formerly was.

On the 4th March 1323, Robert Bruce had a son born to him in Dunfermline, when the palace must have been in some degree repaired, who, after a long minority, ascended the throne under the title of David II.

In 1385, a large body of Frenchmen were lodged in Dunfermline, as there were in some other inland towns, as Queensferry, Kelso, Dunbar, and Dalkeith, Edinburgh not being able to accommodate them all, on the occasion of John de Vienne, the famous admiral of France, having come over to this country in the reign of Robert II., in consequence of an application from the Scots to the regency of the French King, Charles VI., with a great number of knights and others, the flower of the French army, and of private soldiers, to assist the Scots in the invasion of England.

On this occasion, too, Froissart mentions that Richard II. of England having burned Edinburgh, “he and his Lords went to Dunfermline, a tolerably handsome town, where is a large and fair abbey of black monks, in which the Kings of Scotland have been accustomed to be buried. The King was lodged in the abbey, but after his departure, the army seized it and burnt both that and the town.” Hume says, generally, that the King “treat-



ed in the same manner Perth, Dundee, and other places in the low countries."

On the 28th January 1581, the Second Confession of Faith, sometimes called Craig's Confession of Faith, because drawn up by John Craig, or the King's Confession, because signed by him, or the First National Covenant of Scotland, and which is embodied in all the subsequent National Covenants entered into by the Scottish Church and people, was subscribed by James VI. and all his household, at Dunfermline.

Between 1582 and 1585, three Danish ambassadors of noble birth, and splendidly attended, arrived in Scotland, and were introduced to King James VI., at Dunfermline, where they congratulated his Majesty, in the King their master's name, with a long discourse of the old amity bond, and mutual friendship, between the two kings, and their kingdoms. They also presented their claim, respecting the restoration of Orkney and Shetland to the Danish crown.

In 1596, a Convention of the "Estates" was held here, for the purpose of recalling the Popish Lords, who had been banished for a conspiracy; and the Princess Elizabeth was born at the palace, on the 19th August, first daughter of his Majesty, afterwards Queen of Bohemia, whose baptism the Convention appointed to take place at Holyroodhouse, on the 28th of November following.

On 19th November 1600, King Charles I. was born here.

In 1624, a great fire took place, which nearly consumed the town; the houses, at that period, being almost entirely composed of wood, at least from the second story. Its ravages were chiefly on the north side of the ancient pillory, at the prison, to the east port. The town was reduced to such poverty by this calamity, that it was obliged to supplicate assistance from the community of Scotland at large.

In 1638, during the months of March and April, in the reign of Charles I., the Covenant, as drawn up by Alexander Henderson and Johnston of Warriston, was subscribed at Dunfermline, by the nobility, gentlemen, burgesses, and commons in the parish. The document containing it is still extant here, and is written on a very large sheet of vellum parchment. Among the signatures are Dunfermyne (Charles Seton, Earl of Dunfermline); Sir Robt. Halkett, Pitferrane; James Durie, Craigluscar; Robert Ged; R. Ged younger; Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie; William

Wardlaw of Balmule; Johne Stanehouse, and Mr Samuel Row, then assistant minister at Dunfermline.

In 1643, the Solemn League and Covenant, a mutual bond of union which had that year been entered into between England and Scotland, for the better protection of the Protestant religion, prevention of the spread and ascendancy of Popery and Prelacy, and the preservation of the liberties of the kingdom in peace and unity,—a document which has been characterized by our latest church historian as “the noblest, in its essential nature and principles, of all that are recorded among the national transactions of the world,”—was sworn and subscribed at Dunfermline, on the 5th, 6th, 7th, 8th, and 12th days of November of that year. This Covenant contains most of the signatures already mentioned as attached to the former Covenant, with several new ones, among which are those of Mr Robert Kay, then minister at Dumbarton, and two years afterwards at Dunfermline, Robert Anderson, reader of God’s word, and a great many more, many of them written in the same hand, probably for those who were unable to write. It is printed, and contained in a quarto bound book, having on one of the boards, “For the Kirk of Dunfermling.”

In 1645, the plague raged in the parish, and carried off numbers, of which there are several notices in the kirk-session records.

In 1650, Charles II., soon after his accession to the throne, on the decapitation of his father in January 1649, subscribed at Dunfermline, with apparent, but only feigned, sincerity, a most remarkable declaration, confirmatory of his former oath to adhere to both covenants. This has been styled “The Dunfermline Declaration,” and is dated 16th August 1650.

In February 1651, there was a great dearth in Dunfermline.

In July 1651, a battle was fought near Pitreavie House in this parish, between the army of Cromwell and that of Charles II., when the former crossed the Frith at Queensferry, on their march northward to Perth, in order to cut off the royal resources from the King, then at Torwood, in the vicinity of Stirling, an engagement which in its consequences proved very disastrous to the Scots. It has been called “the Battle of Fife,” and sometimes also, “the Battle of Inverkeithing,” and “Battle of Pitreavie;”—the first action having been fought near Inverkeithing, and then continued up to Pitreavie, where the chief slaughter took place.

The English soldiers, after their victory, indulged in many acts of annoying petty plunder.



1670. In the middle of June of this year, a conventicle or field-meeting was held at Beath-hill, partly in this parish, which produced a great sensation. It was kept by Mr John Blackadder, the ejected minister of Troqueer, and Mr John Dickson, the ejected minister of Rutherglen.

On the 24th October 1715, about a month before the battle of Sheriffmuir, fought in the attempt of the old Pretender, James VIII., to ascend the throne, there was a surprisal of a Jacobite detachment at Dunfermline.

*Eminent Persons.*—*Alexander Seton*, first Earl of Dunfermline, a branch of the noble family of Seton, Earls of Winton. He was the fourth son of George, sixth Lord Seton, and was born about the year 1555. Queen Mary, who was his god-mother, presented to him, “ane god-bairne gift, the lands of Pluscarty in Moray.”

From the royal favour which he enjoyed on his own and his father's account, he was appointed on 27th January 1585, an Extraordinary Lord, by the style of Prior of Pluscardine, and on 16th February 1587, being then Baron of Urquhart, he was promoted to the place of an ordinary senator of the College of Justice, under the style of Lord Urquhart. He was created Earl of Dunfermline in 1605, and admitted a member of the English Privy Council in 1609. He represented the Royal Person in the Parliament held on 24th October 1612, wherein the obnoxious prelatial acts of the General Assembly, held at Glasgow in June 1610, were ratified, and the act of Parliament 1592, establishing presbyteries, is asserted to have been rescinded. In 1613 he built Pinkie House, near Musselburgh, or rather converted the old one, which was a country mansion belonging to the abbots of Dunfermline, who were at an early period superiors of Musselburgh, into its present shape, on the front of which is the following inscription, now hid by a portico, as translated into English, and which seems to savour a little of vanity:—“Lord Alexander Seton built this house, not after the fashion of his mind, but after that of his fortunes and estates, 1613.” Here he died on the 16th June 1622, in the sixty-seventh year of his age, and was interred on the 19th July following, with all funeral solemnity, in his burial-place in a ~~rash of the old parish church of Dalgety~~, now in ruins, on one of the small galleries of which were emblazoned the family arms.

The Right Honourable James Abercromby, born 1776, Speaker of the House of Commons 1835–39, and third son of the gallant ~~Sir Ralph Abercromby~~, who was killed at Aboukir in 1801, was

created in 1839 a British Baron, by the title of " Lord Dunfermline."

*Broomhall Family.*—This family trace their origin to Robert de Brus, a knight of Normandy, who came over to England with William the Conqueror, and claim to be the representatives of the male line of the illustrious house of Bruce, although the exact connection with the monarchy has been lost. The lands of Broomhall, formerly Wester Gellet, about three miles south from the town of Dunfermline, appear to have been possessed, at the beginning of the seventeenth century, by Sir George Bruce of Carnock, who gave them to his son Robert. Sir George, from whom the Elgin family is descended, in a direct male line, was the youngest of three sons of Edward Bruce of Blairhall, Esq., who lived in the reigns of James V. and Queen Mary. The eldest succeeded to Blairhall, which line ended in an heiress, Mary, who married one of the family of Stuarts of Bute, and died in 1759. Edward, the second son, was an eminent lawyer, and built the house now called the Abbey of Culross, so named from its being situated near the old abbey or monastery. He was an ambassador to Queen Elizabeth in 1594, and was of much service to James VI., on his accession to the English throne. Having followed his royal master to England, he was made by him Master of the Rolls, and created Baron Bruce of Kinloss in 1603. His eldest son was killed in the duel with Sir Edward Sackville, and the son's heart is buried at Culross.

The late Earl, Thomas Bruce, succeeded his brother William Robert, who enjoyed the title only two months, and died in the eighth year of his age, on the 15th July 1771. Earl Thomas was long one of the representative Peers of Scotland; a lieutenant-general in the army; a general of the Royal Archers of Scotland; a family trustee of the British Museum; and a member of the Privy Council. He was ambassador at Constantinople in 1799–1801, when, in his zeal for the fine arts, he rescued the marbles of the Parthenon at Athens from the destruction which awaited them, and secured them as an invaluable possession for Great Britain. Having been purchased from him by Government for about L.30,000—a sum, however, which it is understood was only about half of what they cost him—they have been permanently deposited in the British Museum, and bear the name of "The Elgin Marbles." His Lordship was a liberal patron, not only of the fine arts, but of science, literature, and antiquarian



researches. He established excellent schools at his lime and coal works, and was first president of the Mechanics' Institution in Dunfermline, as well as personally assisted at its formation. He was public spirited and enterprising, carrying his local improvements on his estate and works to an extent which embarrassed his private fortune. He was liberal and free from selfishness in his charities; and, in his private manners, happily blended the suavity of the private gentleman with the dignity of the nobleman. He died at Paris, on the 14th November 1841, in his 76th year, much regretted by his tenantry and work-people, by whom he was greatly esteemed. He is succeeded by his eldest son, by the second marriage, James, 8th Earl of Elgin, and 12th Earl of Kincardine, born 1811, a nobleman of very promising talents and character, at present Governor of Jamaica.

*Pitfirrane Family.*—This is the most ancient family resident in the parish, and has had many members eminent for their public services and private worth. The first mentioned of the family was David de Halket, proprietor of the lands of Lumphennans and Ballingall in Fife, who lived in the time of King David Bruce, whose son Philip, designed “Dominus de Ballingall et Lunfinnans,” flourished in the reign of Robert II. and III., and acquired the third part of the lands of Pitfirrane from his cousin, William de Scott de Balweary, in 1399. To the deed of conveyance John de Torry, abbot of Dunfermline, and son of Philip, was a witness. The first of the family found to be designed by the title of Pitfirrane was David de Halket, grandson of Philip, and son of Robert, who was sheriff of Kinross in 1372. He is mentioned as early as 3d June 1404.

The first members of the family that were knighted were two sons of George Halket, who lived in the reigns of Queen Mary and King James VI. His eldest son, Robert, received the honour from King James VI., and was served heir to his father, in the lands of Pitfirrane, in 1595. A younger son, John, was knighted by the same prince; and attaching himself to a military life, he entered the service of the States of Holland, rose to the rank of a colonel, and had the command of a Scots regiment in the Dutch service. He was likewise President of the Grand Court Marishall, in Holland.

Anne, daughter of Mr Thomas Murray, Provost of Eton, and preceptor to Charles I., and second wife of Sir James Halket, knighted at Dalkeith, 14th June 1633, was a lady of great

natural gifts, which she had diligently cultivated, and of decided religious and moral character. She was born in 1622, and, through her father's connection with royalty, was soon known at Court, where she was held in high esteem for her talents, prudence, amiableness, and benevolence, as well as strong attachment to the royal family, to whom she made herself very serviceable. She was appointed, by King Charles I. and his Queen, first sub-governess, and afterwards, on the death of the Countess of Roxburgh, governess to the Duke of Gloucester and the Princess Elizabeth. Immediately after the death of Charles I., she found it prudent to retire for a while from court to Scotland, and resided for some time in this town with the Earl and Countess of Dunfermline, who always paid her great attention. Her scriptural knowledge and piety, as well as uncommon activity of mind, were her prominent excellencies, of which she has left substantial evidence in some writings still extant, particularly, "Meditations on the 25th Psalm; Meditations and Prayers upon the First Week, with Observations on each day of the Creation, and Instructions for Youth." (Edinburgh, 8vo, 1778); with a Memoir, containing many interesting and pleasing incidents of her life. She wrote 5 books in folio, 15 in quarto, and one in octavo, all of a religious and spiritual nature. Some of her MSS. are still at Pitfirrane.

Elizabeth, second daughter of Sir Charles Halket, who was born in 1639, was married to Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, Baronet, in 1696, and died in 1726 or 1727. She was a lady of great accomplishments, and has acquired celebrity, as being considered by many the authoress of an admired poem or ballad, entitled "Hardyknute."

The present proprietor, Sir John Halket, is the seventh Baronet of Pitfirrane—a commander in the Royal Navy. His lady, Amelia Hood, daughter of Colonel Conway, descends from a branch of the Conways of Ragley, who were elevated to the peerage, as Barons, Viscounts, and Earls of Conway.

*Wardlaw Family.*—The Wardlaws claim a very high origin, having first come from Saxony to England about the year 500; and they derive their name from an office which they held in the law department under the Anglo-Saxon monarchs. There were three leading branches of this family—the Torrie, the Luscar, and the Balmule and Pitreavie, in this vicinity, besides those of



Riccarton and Warrieston elsewhere. It is the third named with which Dunfermline parish is more immediately connected.

Sir Henry Wardlaw, the eldest son of Sir Cuthbert of Balmule, was the first designated of Pitreavie ( $2\frac{1}{2}$  miles south-east from Dunfermline), and was also of Balmule. He was in high favour at court, and in 1603 was appointed chamberlain to Anne of Denmark, Queen of James VI.

The present representative of the family is Sir William Wardlaw of Pitreavie, the thirteenth Baronet, born 1794, residing in Edinburgh.

*Admiral Sir Andrew Mitchell, K.B.*, was the son of Charles Mitchell of Pitteadie, afterwards of Baldrige, near Dunfermline, and descended from the ancient family of Bandeth, Westshore, commonly called Mitchell *of that ilk*, and whose ancestors were barons of Scotland. He was born in this parish in 1757, and distinguished himself in the naval service during the last war. He died at Bermuda in February 1806.

*Arnald Blair*, a monk of Dunfermline, was Chaplain to Sir William Wallace, and author of two Latin works, entitled "*Relationes quædam Arnaldi Blair, monachi de Dunfermling, et capellani D. Willielmi Wallas, Militis, A. D. 1327*," which begins with Sir William Wallace being chosen governor of Scotland in 1298, and ends with his being betrayed and put to death, in 1305; and "*Diarium Arnaldi de Blair, capellani Willielmi Vallej, Militis, (Gubernatoris Regni Scotiæ), monachi de Dunfermling, 1327*," beginning at 1297, and ending 7th September 1305, and occupying four and a half folio pages.

*Mr John Durie*, a monk of Dunfermline in 1563, embraced the Protestant faith, and became an eminent preacher of it. He was successively minister of Leith, Edinburgh, and Montrose.

*Mr David Ferguson* was the first Protestant minister of this parish, a man of great celebrity in his day, and held in much confidence and esteem by his brethren. He died on 23d August 1598, aged 65, and is thus briefly but pithily characterized by Spottiswood. "A good preacher, wise, and of a jocund and pleasant disposition, which made him well regarded both in court and country." Besides his famous sermon preached at Leith, he was the author of a compilation of the Scottish Proverbs, set in alphabetical order, the same year in which he died, and printed

at Edinburgh in 1644, 4to, and other works, noticed by M'Crie in his *Lives of Knox and Melville*.

*Mr John Davidson*, another eminent reformer, was a native of this parish. He was first minister at Liberton, and afterwards at Prestonpans, in the reign of James VI.

*Mr Robert Henryson* was an eminent person in this parish, as a teacher and poet, at the end of the fifteenth century. The exact period and place of his birth, as well as the time of his death, are involved in equal obscurity. He must have been born, however, in the reign of James II. or III., and it is certain that he died in this burgh. The main fact regarding his personal history, well ascertained, is, that he was "Scolmaister of Dunfermling," or, as he has been styled, "Chief Schoolmaster of Dunfermline;" and it has been conjectured, that he officiated as preceptor of youth in the Abbey.

*Mr Adam Blackwood* was born in Dunfermline in 1539. Being a Roman Catholic, he settled in France, and became a Senator in the Parliament of Poitiers. He died in 1623, aged 74. He published various works, a corrected edition of which, Latin and French, appeared twenty-one years after his death, at Paris, 1644, 4to. He had two brothers, also natives of Dunfermline; Henry, who became eminent as a doctor of medicine at Paris, and George, who became a professor of philosophy there, and afterwards a clergyman of celebrity.

*Mr James Bayne*, schoolmaster of Dunfermline, published, in 1714, a short introduction to the Latin Grammar.

*Mr James Moir* was a teacher and author in Dunfermline in 1756, and afterwards in Edinburgh, where he died in 1806, aged 93.

*Mr Andrew Donaldson*, brother-in-law to Mr John Mackie, a respectable gentleman in the carpet manufactory trade in Dunfermline, who died in 1793, was a teacher in this town, a man of good education and character, but of singular habits.

*Provost Low* was long and deservedly eminent for his success in the reduction of dislocations, and for the disinterested manner in which he acted in the exercise of his peculiar talent. He died in September 1817.

*Rev. Henry Fergus*, late minister in the Relief Church, was an ardent student of physical science, on some branches of which he lectured in the Mechanics' Institution in 1825-6, and was the author of several publications.



*Ebenezer Henderson*, D.D., Theological Tutor, Highbury College, formerly agent of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and author of several works, was a native of this parish.

*Modern and other Buildings.*—The most recent school buildings are the Burgh, Commercial, and Maclean Schools.

*Churches.*—The following may be noticed :—*Queen Anne Street Dissenting Church*, a huge building, “rearing its enormous rectilinear ridge over all the other buildings in Dunfermline, the Abbey Church itself not excepted.”

Within the last sixteen years have been erected *St Margaret's Church*, of the United Associate connexion, 1827; behind it, the *Baptist Church*, 1834; *St Andrew's Church*, North Chapel Street, 1833; *North Church*, Goldrum, 1840, which last two are both *quoad sacra* churches, built in connexion with the Establishment; the *Independent or Congregational Church*, Canmore Street, 1841, and the *Episcopal Trinity Chapel*, Queen Anne Place, 1842, all additions to the ornamental structures of the town, and affording comfortable accommodation to the congregations worshipping in them. A *Free Church* also, built of stone and slated, has been erected in Canmore Street, in the end of 1843.

But the largest, most splendid, and interesting ecclesiastical edifice of modern date, is the *Abbey Church*. It was begun in March 1818, and completed in September 1821. It immediately adjoins the Old Church on the east, the latter being now a porch or vestibule to it. It is of light ornate Gothic architecture, with tall handsome windows, and having a fine square tower, near the east end, 100 feet high. On the summit of this tower, instead of a balustrade of the same architecture as the rest of the building, there are the four words, “King Robert The Bruce,” on the four sides respectively, in capital letters of open hewn work, four feet in height, which can be easily read at a considerable distance. These are surmounted by royal crowns, and each corner is ornamented with a lofty pinnacle. This decoration is intended to designate the place of sepulture of our great patriot King, whose ashes repose immediately beneath; but the taste and architectural effect of it are questioned by many. The interior of the church is much and universally admired, for the simplicity, chasteness, and elegance of its form and ornaments.

A *Poor's House* and *Prison* have been recently erected in the Town Green, east from the Burgh.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population of the town and parish at various periods, as far as can be ascertained, is as follows :—

Year.	In 'Town and Suburbs.	In Parish.	
1400	500	...	{ MS. Annals of Dunfermline, by Dr E. Henderson.
1600	1,000	...	
1624	1,400	...	{ Inventory of Records of Aberdeen.*
1690	1,800	...	{ MS. Annals.
1698	2,000	...	{ Ditto.
1713	...	5,000	{ Presbytery Records, taken for proposal to have a third Minister.
1755	4,400 MS. Annals.	8,552	{ Ditto, Return to Dr Webster, for Widows' Scheme.†
1791	5,192	9,550	{ Old Statistical Account.
1801	5,484	9,980	{ First Government Census.
1811	6,492	11,649	{ Second Ibid.
1821	8,003	13,681	{ Third Ibid.
1831	10,625	17,068.	{ Fourth Ibid.
1841	13,323	19,778‡	{ Fifth Ibid.

The results of the census, taken in 1841, are as follows :—

HOUSES.			PERSONS.		
Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Males.	Females.	Total.
1374	97	2	3,033	3,079	6,112
1	0	0	17	7	24§
1375	97	2	3,050	3,086	6,136
372	23	2	908	825	1,733¶
1747	120	4	3,958	3,911	7,869**
1177	70	1	2,783	2,671	5,454††
2924	190	5	6,741	6,582	13,323‡‡
1489	82	14	3,283	3,633	6,916§§
4413	272	19	10,024	10,215	20,239

Excess of 191 Females in whole parish.

\* As it appears, from an extract from these Records, that there were 287 families in Dunfermline in 1624, by allowing nearly five to a family, the population is about 1400.

† Dr Webster's undertaking was begun in 1743, but not completed till 1755, which accounts for this last year being given as that of the Report.

‡ I have here excluded North Queensferry, which is in the parish *quoad civilia*, (and was estimated in 1841 for the first time), in order to shew the proportional increase of the population with previous years. Including North Queensferry, it is 20,239.

§ Gaol. ¶ In ancient burgh. ¶¶ In burgh, as extended by Police Bill.

\*\* In municipal burgh under the jurisdiction of the magistrates.

†† In Parliamentary bounds. ‡‡ In town and suburbs.

§§ In landward part of the parish, including North Queensferry.

||| In parish, including as above.



## Comparison of totals in 1841 and 1831.

HOUSES.			PERSONS.		
Inhabited.	Uninhabited.	Building.	Males.	Females.	Total.
4413	272	19	10,024	10,215	20,239 in 1841.
92	18	1	203	258	461
4321	259	18	9,821	9,957	19,778 in 1841.
2347	113	1	8,440	8,628	17,068 in 1831.
1974	146	3 less.	1,391	1,329	2,710 Increase.
The total increase between 1821 and 1831 was					3,387
					677 Diff.

The number of distinct families, as reported in 1841, is the same as that of inhabited houses; but, in 1831, the former was stated to be 3552, while the latter was 2347; the houses, in this last case, having been taken as separate buildings.

The villages, with their respective populations, in 1841, were—

Crossgates,	548
Halbeath,	455
Townhill,	285
Wellwood,	347
Roscobie,	70
Milesmark,	193
Parknook and Blackburn,	264
Crossford,	443
Charleston,	724
Limekilns,	950
Patiemuir,	130
Masterton,	144
Brucefield Feus,	104

4657

*Births.*—It is impossible to state accurately the yearly average of births, for the last seven years, since very few of the Dissenters, during that period, have recorded the births of their children in the Parish Register, and some of the parents belonging to the Establishment have also neglected to do so. The following is the average number of the registrations of births and baptisms for ten years, at four different periods, compared with the population, shewing a rapid decrease in the descent, which is to be ascribed to the cause just mentioned—a cause which began to operate during the third period, and became still stronger afterwards.

Between.	Medium Population.	Yearly Registration of Births.
1783-1792	9,250	280 or 3.027 per cent.
1803-1812	10,800	209 or 2.861 ...
1817-1826	14,000	254 or 1.815 ...
1827-1836	17,000	181 or 1.059 ...

\* Deduct for North Ferry.

The average for 1817–1826 is 55 less than that of the immediately preceding period, while the population was upwards of 3000 more, shewing that the neglect of registrations was then rapidly on the increase, and this disproportion is still more apparent in the two succeeding periods. Of the births which occurred in 1841, when the population was 19,778, only 105 were recorded in the Parish Register; in 1842, only 89; and in 1843, up to 15th December, only 43. These results point out the imperative necessity of some new legislative enactment, for enforcing registrations of births for general purposes, as well as for the benefit of individuals. The period between 1803–1812 affords the safest data for the calculations of a political economist, especially when I state that the registrations for each year of that period were pretty uniform.

*Mortality.*—A very correct register of burials in the Abbey churchyard having been kept since 1833, the following is an abstract of them for ten years. A few of the funerals came from neighbouring parishes, but probably as many went out of Dunfermline to these parishes; so that the number of interments may be taken as very nearly that of deaths in the parish.

Abstract of Burials in Abbey Churchyard, Dunfermline, for ten years, from 1st January 1833 to 1st January 1842 inclusive.

Years.	Under 5 yrs.	5 to 10.	10 to 20.	20 to 30.	30 to 40.	40 to 50.	50 to 60.	60 to 70.	70 to 80.	80 to 90.	90 & up- wards.	Total.
1833	130	24	26	21	12	12	24	28	29	22	3	331
1834	135	33	23	18	20	17	14	20	35	17	1	333
1835	169	22	19	23	15	11	23	21	33	14	4	354
1836	140	14	14	14	17	16	18	34	26	17	1	311
1837	209	20	22	31	18	35	32	44	55	25	2	493
1838	138	11	10	29	20	19	20	39	31	14	2	333
1839	147	15	20	18	22	24	23	25	29	22	1	346
1840	180	23	21	6	29	26	18	22	17	13	...	355
1841	266	44	26	29	13	31	29	22	34	16	3	513
1842	166	17	22	17	18	29	20	25	29	10	1	354
Totals,	1680	223	203	206	184	220	221	280	318	170	18	3723
Averages,	168	22	20	20	18	22	22	28	32	17	2	372

Taking the average number of interments in the churchyard of Rosyth, which borders on the parish at Limekilns, to be 35 for the same period, the total average will be 407; and estimating the average population between 1833 and 1842 at 18,500, the average of deaths will be about 1 in 45 (45.45), or  $2\frac{1}{5}$  per cent.

In 1841, the population was 19,778, and the number of burials in Abbey churchyard, 513 = to about 1 in 38 (38.55), or  $2\frac{3}{5}$  per



cent., and including Rosyth (say 40),  $553 =$  to about 1 in 35 (35.94), or  $2\frac{4}{5}$  per cent.

There was an unusual mortality in 1837, owing to the great prevalence of typhus fever, measles, and what are usually named hives. Influenza, also, was very prevalent and fatal at the commencement of that year, chiefly among the aged and infirm; and it was remarked, that although many persons died of other diseases at that period, almost all these diseases assumed more or less the type of this epidemic, as an accompaniment. The number of deaths was nearly as great as that arising from cholera and other diseases in 1832; the former being 493, and the latter 500, of which last number there were 180 deaths by cholera alone. This alarming disease prevailed in the parish from 3d September to 1st November 1832, and partially in the March preceding. There were nearly 500 cases, although only 180 deaths.

*Marriages.*—As the accuracy of the Register of Proclamation of Marriages can be depended on, it may be interesting and useful to know the average number of them at four different periods, compared with the population and other circumstances. Accordingly—

From	Medium Population.	Yearly Average of Marriages.
1801 } to } 1810 }	11,830	82, or 1 in 144, or 69 per cent.
1810 } to } 1821 }	12,665	85, or 1 in 149, or 67 ...
1821 } to } 1831 }	15,374	119, or 1 in 129, or 77 ...
1831 } to } 1841 }	18,400	149, or 1 in 123, or 81 ...
Or the average from 1801 to 1841 is 1 in 134, or 74 ...		

In 1801, the year of the great dearth, the number of marriages was 62, which was the same as in the year immediately preceding, while it rose in 1802 to 81, and in 1803 to 101. In the three following years it fell, being 77, 87, and 93 respectively. In 1827, after a great depression in trade, the number of marriages was only 106, while in the year immediately preceding and following, it was 125, and in 1830 it rose to 171. The Malthusians will consider these facts, as corroborative of their theory of population.

The number of persons in the whole parish, including North Queensferry, as nearly as can be gathered from the census of 1841, is for the following ages,—

Under 15 years of age,	9421
Betwixt 15 and 30 inclusive,	5279
Betwixt 30 and 50 ...	3782
Betwixt 50 and 70 ...	1507
Betwixt 70 and 90, and upwards,	250

Total, 20,239

There is one earl (Elgin and Kincardine) and one baronet (Capt. Sir John Halket), who generally reside in the parish. The Marquis of Tweeddale has land, and feu-duties or fees arising from his heritable offices of Bailie of the Regality and Constabulary of the Lordship of Dunfermline, but no mansion-house in it. There are many individuals and families of independent fortune residing both in the town and country.

There are 38 proprietors of land, exclusive of the burgh and guildry corporations, of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards.

The average number in each family is rather more than four and a half (4.5771), or about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

The average number of insane and fatuous poor, either in an asylum or in the parish, for seven years from 1835-41, both inclusive, is,

In Asylum.	Not in Asylum.	Total.
6	10	16
In 1843, 5	11	16

Some of these eleven are in the Poor's House. There are three or four blind, and five deaf and dumb persons, belonging to the parish. One of the latter is at present receiving education at the Glasgow Deaf and Dumb Institution; and another was also taught there, both at the expense of the Rev. A. M'Lean's trustees. A third was educated at the Edinburgh Institution, by voluntary contributions from the parish.

The people are not remarkable for any corporeal or other personal qualities. The language of the working classes is distinguished by some peculiar pronunciations and phrases, such as *toll* for *tell*; *buddies* for *bodies* (children); *lean ye* for *sit you down* or *rest yourselves*; a *false* for a *falsehood*; *belonging me* for *to me*; *fell* used in a good as well as a bad sense, as a *fell* or large meeting, a *fell* or fine boy, a *fell* or clever person, *fell* or very angry; a *frem* person, one not related by blood.

*Habits of the People, &c.*—The habits of the people as a class are industrious and active, and, with the exception of the lowest and most dissipated among them, are cleanly and orderly. Very many of the working population have a fair proportion of the comforts of life, and advantages of society. They have good and well



furnished houses, dress respectably, educate their children, and can afford to have the same wholesome and nourishing diet, as is usual in a similar class in other parts of Scotland.

Many of the weavers and operatives of all descriptions, are very intelligent and skilful at their employments, and have information far superior to their rank in life.

The inhabitants generally are a church-going people, as indicated by the attendance on the places of worship, and the crowds of persons who are seen going to and from these on the Sabbath. Many of the respectable middling classes are well informed on religious subjects; and although there is a great diversity of sects, and an occasional keenness in the discussion of controversial topics, there are considerable freedom and harmony of private intercourse.

It is to be acknowledged and lamented, however, that, as in all populous and manufacturing places, there are many exceptions to this favourable statement, both in respect of prosperity and character. A young weaver, from being soon able to earn a journeyman's wages, often contracts too early a marriage, which, especially if followed by irregular employment, and reduction of wages in consequence of depression of trade, as has of late years too frequently occurred, and much more by his own improvidence or dissipation, necessarily entails poverty and wretchedness. Accordingly, there are not a few journeymen weavers and their families, from one or more of these causes, living in great straits and discomfort, which they have little prospect of overcoming. As a natural result of this, there is discontent among a certain portion of the weaving class, as also other mechanics, accompanied by a keen interference in civil and ecclesiastical politics, and an anxious attempt to find remedies for their wants in the removal of real or imagined public evils, rather than in the amendment of their own habits as individuals and members of society. The cases of extreme indigence and misery arising mainly from intemperance, with its concomitant evils, idleness, profligacy, carelessness of persons and dwellings, neglect of education of children and of divine ordinances, are often very appalling and heart-rending.

As to the collier population, it is well known that anciently the coal-hewers were serfs to their employers, or "*adscriptæ glebæ*," the law repealing which practice having been passed only in 1775, and made effectual by another only in 1799.

In consequence of disputes at some of the collieries in this quar-

ter, arising out of the union-laws, the collier population has of late been very fluctuating and unsettled. But in regard to the old resident part of the workmen, especially in the vicinity of the town of Dunfermline, who did not take any prominent part in these disputes, I would say, that, generally speaking, their intellectual, religious, and moral character, is decidedly superior to that of the same class of persons in many other places.

The old practice of confining their marriages to their own class is beginning to break down, from which an improvement may be expected in many respects. But the chief feature of improvement of late years has been in education. This was generally at one time very much neglected, and hence the adult population was often ignorant and uncultivated. The cause of this deficiency was certainly in no small degree, the facility of finding easy employment with a little pecuniary gain for young boys and girls underground, in keeping doors for ventilation, &c. a benefit which careless or dissipated parents took advantage of, to the prejudice of the education of their offspring. But, recently, at all the collieries, the payments for education are made *universal* and *compulsory*, an arrangement which has caused a much more regular attendance.

I am not aware of any distinguishing peculiarities in the character of the agricultural population of this parish. The Bothy system exists here as in other places, with its share of attendant evils. From many of the farm-servants shifting their situations frequently, they are not so well known to their ministers, as other classes of the working population. Still, numbers of them are regular in their attendance on divine ordinances, and conduct themselves with Christian propriety.

Poaching is considerably on the decrease, chiefly, it is supposed, on account of the vigilance of the rural police. In 1841, the number of persons prosecuted for offences against the game laws, in the western district of Fife, in the Justice of Peace Court, was 17; in 1842, 9; and in 1843, 6. There were, however, other cases, in which the evidence was deficient, and which were not brought to trial.

Pawnbroking has been on the increase of late. There are at present (December 1843) eleven shops, besides many private places, where the trade is understood to be carried on. None of the dealers in it are licensed, as they profess to purchase the articles deposited with them. They are styled "General Merchants or Brokers."



## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The following tabular view of the agriculture of the parish was drawn up chiefly in consequence of hearing certain remarks made by Earl Fitzwilliam on the Statistical Reports of Agriculture, including those of the new work of the Church of Scotland, at the meeting of the British Association held in Edinburgh in 1834. These are now recorded in the printed transactions for that year, p. 693, and are, in substance, as follows:—  
 “ The expediency of furnishing more minute details with respect to the agricultural part of statistical reports, was suggested in these remarks. The statements ought to show not only the total amount of land in cultivation, but also the quantities allotted at the time of the inquiry to the various kinds of produce, the number and value of agricultural implements, the number of draught and other cattle, and similar details. Lord Fitzwilliam stated, that he had succeeded in obtaining such returns for some parishes in his own neighbourhood, and observed, that accurate and minutely detailed information for only a small number of places would furnish more safe grounds for correct inferences than could be obtained from a more widely extended, but less precise inquiry.”

The information contained in the first four tables may be depended on, as possessing all attainable accuracy, having been procured from written returns, made by the several proprietors or tenants of land, in answer to queries submitted to them in schedules, containing a variety of columns for the purpose. The information in the other tables was also obtained from the best sources. Except when otherwise noted, they all refer to the year 1838, soon after which, the author expected his History of Dunfermline to be completed, but in this, from other duties, he was disappointed. This he regrets, as some slight changes may have taken place since that period, especially as to the number of farming implements.\*

## AGRICULTURAL STATISTICAL TABLE FOR 1838.

## I. Number of Acres Arable and not Arable, &amp;c.

	Scots		Imperial.		
	Acres.	Acres.	Roods.	Poles,	Falls.
Number of acres arable, .. .. .	10,618	13,391	1	0	0
..... not arable, .. .. .	2,966	3,740	2	26	6
..... under wood, ....	900	1,135	0	10	23
..... under water, ... ..	180	227	0	2	1 $\frac{3}{4}$

\* The substance of these tables and of the previous article on population was read at an extra meeting of the statistical section of the British Association at Glasgow, in September 1840, of which the chairman, in name of the meeting, was pleased to express his approbation.

	Scots. Acres.	Imperial. Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Falls.
Number of acres in fences and farm-roads, } supposed to be, ..... }	600	756	2	33	18
..... in country mansion- houses and farm-stead- ings, supposed to be ... }	36	45	1	24	11½
Total number of landward acres, exclusive of villages and great roads, ..... }	15,300	19,296	0	17	0

## II.

	Scots. Acres.	Imperial. Acres.	Roods.	Poles.	Falls.
Number of acres under the various kinds of crops, pasture and sum- mer-fallow, including a few acres in tares, ..... }	549	692	1	22	9½
..... in wheat, ..... }	493	621	3	2	3½
..... in barley, ..... }	840	1,059	1	23	1½
..... in oats, ..... }	2,794	3,523	2	39	13½
..... in pease and beans, ..... }	420	529	2	31	15½
..... in turnips, ..... }	308	388	1	31	3½
..... in potatoes, ..... }	552	696	0	27	21½
..... in rye-grass hay, ..... }	828	1,044	1	1	18½
..... in meadow-hay, ..... }	222	279	3	37	7½
..... in pasture-grass, ..... }	3,561	4,490	3	22	14½
..... in gardens and orchards } (landward), ..... }	51	64	1	11	7½
	10,618	13,391	0	9	27½

## III. Number of Draught and other Cattle and Live Stock.

Number of draught horses (landward), .....	413
..... saddle or carriage (do.), .....	40
..... young horses (do.), .....	156
..... milk-cows (do.), .....	456
..... black cattle (do.), .....	1526
..... sheep (do.), .....	1339
..... swine (do.), .....	167

## IV. Number and Kinds of Implements of Husbandry.

	Iron.	Wooden.	Total
Number of common ploughs, .....	118	79	197
..... drill do. ....	39	42	81
..... furrow do. ....	3	29	32
..... drain do. ....	...	...	11
..... subsoil do. ....	8	5	13
..... paring do. ....	...	...	9
..... common carts, .....	...	...	248
..... hay do. ....	...	...	104
..... common harrows (pairs), .....	...	...	223
..... brakes or grubbers, .....	15	11	26
..... drill-harrows, .....	38	30	68
..... circular drill-harrows, .....	...	...	1
..... grain-seed machines, .....	...	...	6
..... corn-drills, .....	...	...	1
..... drill bean barrows, .....	...	...	11
..... Turnip-seed machines, one of which } also sows bone-dust, ..... }	...	...	39
..... Thrashing-machines, .....	Horse. 57*	Water. 2	Steam. 2
..... Rollers, .....	Stone. 56	Wood. 51	107
..... Hay-Scythes, .....	...	...	173

\* In 1814, there were only 23.



Several of the farmers are provided with steel-yards for weighing corn, reaping-scythes, scythe-hooks, and large horse-rakes.

#### V. Average produce of the Land in the Southern Section of the Parish.

	On best soils.		On ordinary soils.	
	Bolls.	Quarters.	Bolls.	Quarters.
1. Wheat, .....	9 or 4½	per acre.	7 or 3½	per acre.
2. Barley, .....	7 or 5½	...	5½ or 4½	...
3. Beans and pease, .....	8 or 4	...	6 or 3	...
4. Oats, .....	10 or 7½	...	8 or 6	...
5. Potatoes, .....	60 or 4 cwt.	...	45 or 4 cwt.	...
6. Hay, .....	200 stones	...	120 stones	...
7. Turnips, .....	30 tons	...	24 tons	...

#### Northern Section.

	On best soils.		On ordinary soils.	
	Bolls.	Quarters.	Bolls.	Quarters.
1. Barley, .....	7 or 5½	per acre.	5 or 3¾	per acre.
2. Beans and pease,...	4 or 2½	...	4 or 2½	...
3. Oats, .....	8 or 6	...	5 or 3¾	...
4. Potatoes, .....	35 or 4 cwt.	...	25 or 6 cwt.	...
5. Hay, .....	150 stone	...	100 stones	...

The produce of a boll of Hopeton oats, in the southern district, may be computed at from 16 to 16½ pecks of meal, and that of the best potato or early oats, at from 17 to 18 pecks. Instances of a greater produce are rare. Besides the Hopeton and early oats, there are also sown the Dunn, Angus, and Strathmiglo.

#### VI. Price of Provisions, and the Rate of Wages of Agricultural Male and Female Servants, at three different periods, 1786, 1814, and 1838.

Provisions.	1786.		1814.		1838.	
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Oatmeal, 7 <sup>p</sup> peck, Dutch weight, from	0 8	to 1 0	1 2	to 1 3	1 2	to 1 3½
Beef, ..... 7 <sup>p</sup> lb.	0 2½	to 0 4	7d.		0 6	to 0 6½
Butter, ... 7 <sup>p</sup> lb. Tron, ...	0 6	to 0 8	1 6	to 1 8	1s. 2½d.	
Eggs, ... 7 <sup>p</sup> dozen, .....	0 3	to 0 4	1s. 3d.		0 7	to 1 0
A hen, .....	0 6	to 0 9	2 0	to 2 6	1 6	to 2 0
Wages.						
Ploughman, 7 <sup>p</sup> year, with lodging and victuals,	£5		£16		£12	to £16
Maid-servants do. do. do.	£2		£5		£4	to £7
Men reapers 7 <sup>p</sup> day, with breakfast and dinner,	0 8	to 1 0	1 3	to 1 6	1 8	to 1 10
With dinner.						
Labourers 7 <sup>p</sup> day without victuals, .....	0 10	to 1 0	1 8	to 2 3	1 6	to 1 8

#### VII. Gross Amount of Raw Produce, the Quantities of Grain and other Articles being taken as in 1838, and the Prices of the Grain on an average of the Fairs for seven years, and of other Articles as nearly as could be ascertained for the same period.

	Acres.	Average produce per acre.	Average price per boll.	Average total price per acre.	Total produce in bolls.	Total value of each.
		Bolls.	£ s. d.	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Wheat, .....	493	9	1 2 6	10 2 6	4437	4991 12 6
Barley, .....	840	6½	1 0 1	6 10 6½	8460	8495 5 0
Oats, .....	2794	8	0 15 8½	6 5 4	22,352	17,509 1 4
Pease and beans, .....	420	7	1 1 7	7 11 1	2940	3172 15 0
Potatoes, .....	552	41	0 7 0	14 7 0	22,632	7921 4 0
		Tons.				
Turnips, .....	308	27	...	5 0 0	...	1540 0 0
		Stones.				
Rye-grass hay, ..	828	160	0 0 8	5 6 8	132,480	4416 0 0
Meadow-hay, .....	222	90	0 0 6	2 5 0	19,980	499 10 0
Arab. land in pas. ..	3561	...	...	3 0 0	...	10,683 0 0
Not arable do. ....	2966	...	...	0 5 0	...	741 10 0
Gardens & orch. (landward,) ..	50	...	...	5 0 0	...	250 0 0
An. thinning of plantations, .....	...	...	...	...	...	705 0 0
Straw at 2s. per boll of corn, .....					38,189	3818 9 0
Coal, 120,000 tons of all kinds, at 6s. 6d. per ton, at pit-mouth, ...						39,000 0 0
Lime shells, 460,000 bushels at 5d. per bushel, .....						9583 6 8
Lime raw stones, 15,000 tons at 4s. per ton, .....						3000 0 0
Free and whinstone quarries, .....						441 0 0
Total yearly value of raw produce raised in the parish, .....						£ 116 767 13 6

There is no ground in a state of undivided common. The general kind of trees planted, or indigenous, has been noticed under the article Botany, p. 845. The management of them, with regard to yearly thinning and pruning, is understood to be good.

#### Rental, &c.—

Valued rental of the parish (1843),	-	-	-	L.18,344 16 2
Real rent of ditto in land,	-	-	-	L.24,161 1 1
in minerals,	-	-	-	4194 18 11
in houses and gardens, within the Parliamentary boundaries,	-	-	-	18,677 0 0
in villages,	-	-	-	341 0 0
in railroads and harbours,	-	-	-	600 0 0

The rent of arable land in the southern district of the parish, including all to the south of the Crossgates and Torryburn roads and town of Dunfermline, is from about L.1, 5s. to L.3, 3s. But the general rent is about L.2, 5s. per Scots acre, or L.1, 15s. 8d. imperial. In the northern district, the rent of arable land is from about 16s. to L.2; and the general rent about L.1, 3s. Scots, or 18s. 2d. imperial.

Pasture-land will rent, to the south of the town, at the same rate as arable; and to the north of it, from 5s. to L.1, 10s. imperial acre.

The rents upon new leases are frequently paid partly in money



and partly in grain, convertible at the fiars' prices either Mid-Lothian or Fife, but now chiefly the latter.

In the immediate vicinity, and on the south side of the town, the rent of grazing for a milk-cow is about L.5, and sometimes as high as L.5, 10s.; and of an ox, about L.3, 10s. To the north of the town, the rent for a milk-cow is about L.3; and for an ox about L.2; for a ewe and lamb, from 12s. to L.1; and for a full-grown sheep, from 10s. to 15s.

*Rate of Wages.*—The wages of ploughmen, when young lads, are from L.9 to L.12; when grown or married men, fit for all kinds of farm-work, from L.3 to L.16; and when they have charge of the farm, are sometimes even L.20 per annum, with an allowance for provisions. The young lads generally receive  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, and either milk or 1s. per week instead of it, with occasionally 1 boll of potatoes. Grown or married men, and persons in charge, have the same quantity of meal and 6 bolls of potatoes. Sometimes, too, they receive a certain quantity of sweet-milk per day from the dairy, or have the use of a cow, and, in the upland districts, even of two or three cows, in which case, if they have at the same time meal and potatoes, their wages are proportionally less. Married men have a free house and garden, with coals driven for them; and unmarried men generally live in bothies, with fire and bedding provided by their masters.

Female house-servants in the country have from L.4 to L.7, generally L.6 per annum.

Male labourers have 1s. 6d. per day in winter, and 1s. 8d. in summer.

Female labourers have at the rate of a penny per hour, both summer and winter, or, on an average, 8d. per day.

Country masons and wrights have 2s. per day in winter, and 2s. 6d. in summer.

The wages of harvest labourers, who are for the most part females, are, of course, variable, generally from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d. per day, with dinner. They work, according to the practice of this part of the country, from nine in the morning till six in the evening, with an interval for dinner. The men who are employed as bandsters receive from 1s. 8d. to 1s. 10d., with dinner.

*Manure.*—House and ash dung sells at 2s. 6d., and stable or byre dung at from 4s. to 5s. per double-cart; slacked lime at  $5\frac{1}{2}$ d. or 6d. per bushel; bone-dust at 2s. 10d. per bushel; and rape-dust at L.5, 5s. per ton. Lime is now by some not so much

approved of as it once was, except for top-dressing on pasture. Bone-dust is occasionally used for turnips, and is reckoned suitable for free soils, and rape-dust for fallow ground and retentive soils. One farmer has employed rape-dust with great effect, having had *four* full successive crops after its application. Guano is also coming into use.

*Live-Stock.*—Few or no sheep are bred in the parish. Teeswater and Fife breed of cattle are most approved of at present; but a difference of opinion exists as to which is best for the general breed of the parish or county. Teeswater cattle, or short-horns, as they are called, are said to come sooner to maturity, with more weight, but require better keeping than the native breed, and are not so well adapted as the other for the high lands.

*Husbandry.*—A general spirit of improvement at present prevails over the parish in the reclaiming of waste lands, and especially in draining, both by stones and tiles, which is the foundation of all good husbandry, and when properly executed, is a permanent advantage. Perhaps more has been done in this way for the success of agriculture during the last ten years, than during the preceding generation.

There are two high-pressure steam engines in the southern section of the parish, for driving thrashing-machines, both of recent introduction.

*Rotation of Crops.*—This varies very much in the southern district. That which is most practised and approved of in strong clays, is, *1st*, summer-fallow; *2d*, wheat; *3d*, beans; *4th*, barley; *5th*, hay; *6th*, oats. On loams, *1st*, potatoes; *2d*, wheat; *3d*, barley; *4th*, hay; *5th*, oats; or, *1st*, turnip; *2d*, barley sown with grass-seeds; *3d*, grass, and pastured two or three years, where the land is fenced; and then oats. The proportion of land employed in raising turnips is much increased of late years. While at the period of the last Statistical Account it was 200 acres, and in 1814 is reported to have been very inconsiderable, it was, in 1838, as appears from the table, 308 acres.

*Sowing and Planting.*—The period of this is generally, for

- 1st*, Wheat, from 1st October till the middle of December;
- 2d*, Barley, from 1st April till 26th May;
- 3d*, Oats, from 20th March till 20th April;
- 4th*, Beans, from 1st March till the middle of April;
- 5th*, Turnips, Swedish, from 1st May till 1st June;
- ... Globe, from 26th May till 10th July;
- ... Yellow, from 26th May till 15th June.

Potatoes are planted from the first till the middle of May; but not generally with success after the 15th.



*Harvest.*—Hay-cutting commences in ordinary seasons about the 20th June, and continues throughout July. The other crops are usually reaped in the lower section of the parish between the middle or end of August, and the beginning of October; in the upper section a fortnight or three weeks later.

*Leases.*—The general duration of leases is nineteen years, which is reckoned favourable, but no boon, to the occupier. As rents are now generally covenanted for partly in money and partly in grain, in as nearly equal proportions as possible, regulated by the fiars of the county, on an average of three years, it is of less importance to a landlord how long a lease may last.

*Farm-Buildings and Enclosures.*—Farm-buildings are much improved, and, for the most part, executed in a substantial manner. The lands are almost all enclosed, partly with free, or sometimes whinstone dikes, and these often dry, and partly with ditches and hedges.

*Manufactures.*—The staple trade of Dunfermline is the manufacture of *Table-linens*. In no other part of Scotland does the traffic in this article exist, although in one or two places a few looms are to be found. The trade of the town began more than a century ago, with the making of ticks and checks, which continued to be made in winter after the table-linen was introduced, which was then woven in summer. Like most other arts, it has attained its present high excellence by slow and successive improvements.\*

The following three tables were prepared by a committee of manufacturers in July 1836, for Joseph Hume, Esq., M. P., and may therefore be depended on as having all the accuracy which is attainable in such cases.

1st, The amount of capital employed in the trade—

3517 looms, producing annually finished goods to the amount of L.351,700	0	0
(Calculating each loom at L.100).		
Value of loom-shops and workhouses,	156,000	0 0
... 3000 damask looms at L.10 each,	30,000	0 0
... 517 diaper looms at L.3 each,	1,551	0 0
Mounting, or patterns, and cards for the above 3517 looms,	4,500	0 0
The houses and warehouses of the manufacturers,	20,000	0 0
Warping mills and bobbins,	500	0 0
Floating capital, calculated at L.60 for each loom,	211,000	0 0
Machinery and houses for boiling yarn,	3,100	0 0
Floating capital for do.	250	0 0
Machinery, ground, and houses for bleaching yarns,	6,000	0 0
Floating capital for do.	3,500	0 0

\* The writer refers for a full account of the table-linen manufacture, illustrated by plates, to his recently published History of Dunfermline.

Houses, ground, and machinery for bleaching cloth,	L.20,000	0	0
Floating capital for do.	8,000	0	0
Houses for calendering, lapping, and finishing goods,	6,000	0	0
Floating capital for do.	1,000	0	0
Houses and machinery for cutting patterns.	1,250	0	0
Floating capital for do.	340	0	0
Houses and machinery for dyeing worsted and cotton,	620	0	0
Floating capital for do.	950	0	0
Total,	L.826,261	0	0

2d, The description and number of persons employed, and their average weekly wages.

Description.	Number.	Average Weekly Wages.
Weavers (men and boys),	3517	10s.
Warpers, warehousemen, and lappers (men),	150	15s.
Winders and pirn fillers, women and girls,	1100	4s.
Yarn boilers (chiefly women),	29	7s.
Bleachers of yarn,	35	7s.
Bleachers of cloth (men and women),	150	8s. 6d.
Lappers in the public lapping houses (chiefly men),	29	9s. 6d.
Designers or pattern drawers (men),	5	
Do. with a few assistants, say	7	
Pattern cutters (men and women),	12	10s.
Dyers (men),	10	18s.
Total number of persons,	5044	

### 3d, Number and different kinds of looms.

Single diaper,	770	which do not require Jacquard machines.
Single damask,	1880	which may have them.
Double do.	369	do.
Table covers,	445	All have them.
Worsted warps,	13	do.
Linen, full harness,	15	do.
Bed quilts,	17	do.

3517

These worsted warps, and especially linen full harness looms, are now (1843) greatly increased. Of the 3517 looms, 570 were out of the parish; for the trade supports looms in the adjoining parishes of Torryburn, Carnock, Culross, and Inverkeithing, and even as far as at Kinross, Auchtermuchty, Leslie, and Strathmiglo.

The following is a table of the number of looms, in and out of the parish of Dunfermline, and of the value of goods manufactured, at various periods, as nearly as can be ascertained, which I have compiled from different sources, showing at one view the gradual progress of the trade.

#### 4th, Table.

DATE.	Looms within the Parish.	Looms out of the Parish.	TOTAL.	VALUE.
1749	About 400	...	400	...
1788	...	...	900	..



1792	About 820	About 380	1200	...
1813	... 930	... 70	1000	1,35,000
1818	... 1500	... 150	1650	120,000
1822	...	...	1800	...
1831	... 2670	... 450	3120	...
1836 (July)	... 2794	... 723	3517	351,700
1837 (Aug.)	... 2983	... 717	3700	370,000

The following tables are extracted from a written paper delivered by the weavers to the Hand-Loom Commissioners in July 1838.

5th, Table. Persons to whom the looms within the parish belong, or who work at them.

Looms belonging to single men,	-	-	475
... married men,	-	-	2098
... warehousemen,	-	-	156
... manufacturers,	-	-	218
		Total,	2947
Owners of looms who work, and who are unmarried,	-	-	279
... married,	-	-	695
... journeymen unmarried,	-	-	762
... married,	-	-	231
... apprentices bound,	-	-	44
... unbound,	-	-	554
... married weavers,	-	-	926
Amount of families married,	-	-	4422
Of these work at the loom,	-	-	1394
... wind pirns,	-	-	1155
... not of age,	-	-	1873

Those who have gone to other trades are not here included in the amount of family.

Of the 44 apprentices bound, 20 were at a factory in town. The reason of so few being bound, is said to be the high stamp-duty of the indenture, viz. one guinea, and the expense of writing it.

6th, Table. Number of looms and hands employed at different times.

July 1836.	24 looms unemployed for want of hands.
Dec. 1837.	900 Do. and 500 weavers unemployed.
9th Feb. 1838.	550 Do. 139 Do.
31st July 1838.	617 Do. 175 Do.

Tables of wages have been made at different periods, first in 1807 and next in 1816, during which time the rate of payment continued the same. In 1816, and again in 1822, the prices were reduced, at which last period there was a *strike* for about nine months. The manufacturers, however, prevailed, and from that time till 1828, when the Jacquard machines came into use, the prices varied slightly. In that year, and again in 1834, 1837, and in 22d May 1844, tables were also made.

7th, Table. Showing how and when the wages were reduced.

		50 Threes per Spindle of Warp.		45 Threes per Spindle of Warp.	
		s.	d.	s.	d.
1807,	-	7	8 $\frac{1}{8}$	6	3 $\frac{1}{8}$
1816,	-	6	3 $\frac{1}{4}$	5	1 $\frac{1}{8}$
1822,	-	5	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	11 $\frac{5}{8}$
1825,	-	5	5 $\frac{1}{4}$	4	2 $\frac{1}{8}$
1826,	-	5	0 $\frac{3}{4}$	3	11 $\frac{5}{8}$
1828,	-	4	6 $\frac{1}{8}$	3	7
1830,	-	4	1	3	3 $\frac{7}{8}$
1836,	-	3	2	2	9 $\frac{1}{4}$
1837 (August)	2	10 $\frac{1}{2}$		2	6 $\frac{3}{8}$
1841 (October)	2	9 $\frac{1}{4}$		2	6
1844 (May)	2	5		2	2

Wages were wont to be paid per yard till within these 12 or 15 years, when they came to be paid per spindle of work, which is thought an improvement, as being more simple. The gross average amount of weekly wages, as stated by the operatives, is about 10s. 6d., but with deductions for light, tear and wear, loom-rent, and dressing, the average of net weekly wages is about 8s. 6d. per week, for each loom. Journeymen receive nearly three-fourths of the income, or 7s. 6d. per week, with the deduction of a small proportion for light and twisting, amounting to about 12s. per annum, the remainder being the master's remuneration for the cost of the loom-rent, &c., and the trouble of providing and superintending the work. Taking the fine and the broad coarse goods separately, which the journeymen chiefly weave, the average of their wages will be somewhat higher than 7s. 6d. In some of the warehouses, where the finest work is wrought, the earnings are much higher than now stated.

Although the weaver has certainly lower wages now than he had twenty years ago, for working *fine* damask, he has much less idle time in ordinary circumstances, in consequence of the use of the Jacquard machines, and the yarn being better, not hand-spun as before, but mill-spun, which is to a certain extent a compensation. Loss of time, on a change of pattern, may be reckoned as occurring, upon an average, only once in eighteen months, but sometimes only once in two or three, or even many years, according to the pleasure of the manufacturer.

Pirn fillers can earn, if they have nothing else to do, 10d. per day, being paid at the rate of 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per spindle of weft. Bobbiners could earn the same amount, but do not receive usually from one warehouse more than from 4d. to 6d. per day, being at the rate of 1d. to 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. per spindle of warp, according to the weight.



The weavers have twelve hours of actual labour, upon an average.

*Spinning-Mills, &c.*—The first spinning-mill in the parish was erected at Brucefield, about half a mile south-west from the town, in 1792, which got the second patent for spinning yarn by machinery. It span yarn from flax, hemp, tow, and wool, but has not been in operation for several years past.

In July 1836 there were seven spinning-mills in operation in the parish: at present there are only five.

The following is a table of particulars regarding these mills, prepared along with the one respecting the table-linen manufacture, in July 1836, for Joseph Hume, Esq., M.P.

Number of spinning-mills, 7 power,	-	102
Number of spindles,	-	7704
Size of spinning-flax, 3 lb. to 90 lee—tow, 2½ lb. to 24 lb.		
Estimated value of machinery and houses,		L.32,400
Number employed—Men, 160; girls, 160.		
Average wages of men, 15s.; ditto of girls, 5s.		
Number of tons of flax purchased in 1833,	-	902
Ditto in 1834,	-	1008
Ditto in 1835,	-	1059
Value of flax purchased in 1835,	-	L.58,350

These mills spin chiefly linen yarn, but one of them manufactures also a great quantity of linen thread, in a state prepared for the market, and for the quality of which it has long been in great repute. The others likewise twist for thread, and some of them make a good deal of shoe thread.

There are three *Iron Foundries* in the parish,—two on the north side of the town, and one at the iron mill, near Charleston,—in all of which considerable work is done, and some brass is cast.

There are five *Breweries* of beer, ale, and porter,—three in the town, one at Crossford, and another at Brucehaven.

There is one *Soap-work*, in which candles also are made, and a *Candle-work* separately.

There are two *Manufactories of Tobacco*, being one less than in 1841, and two less than in 1837. There are no snuff-mills; as there were anciently, near the ruins of the monastery.

There are, on the north side of the town, two *Tanning* and *Currying-works*. There are, in or near the town, three *Rope-works*; and in the vicinity of Charleston and Townhill, two *Tile and Brick-works*.

There are, in different parts of the parish, four *Corn or Meal*

*Mills*; and connected with the one at the iron-mill, near Charleston, is a *Saw-mill*, both of which are driven by the same wheel.

There are in the town four *Dye-works*.

There is only one *Flour Mill*, which is in Monastery Street, named the Heugh Mill. It was erected in 1784 or 1787, and was driven by water till 1819, when the present proprietor applied to it a steam-engine, that it might continue regularly in operation, during summer as well as winter. Since that period, the mill has manufactured, on an average, 7194 bolls of wheat annually.

*Navigation*.—The shipping at Limekilns and Charleston in December 1843 was as follows:—

			Tons.	Men.
Limekilns,	6 Brigs,	-	980	- 60
—	7 Schooners,	-	641	- 45
—	16 Sloops,	-	738	- 57
—	1 Pinnace,	-	16	- 2
Charleston,	2 Schooners,	-	137	- 10
—	4 Sloops,	-	121	- 11

Average wages per month:—

For Brigs,	Masters from L.6	to L.7 and L.8.
Schooners,	—	L.4, 10s. to L.5 and L.6.
Sloops,	—	L.4 to L.4, 10s.

Mates from L.2, 10s. to L.3, 10s. and L.4; seamen from L.2 to L.2, 10s., and boys from 10s. to L.1, 5s.

Several of these vessels are employed during the summer in carrying lime from the harbour of Charleston; and many vessels from the east coast of Fife, and from the continent of Europe, come thither for lime and coal.

*Banks*.—There are four branches of banking houses in Dunfermline; one of the Bank of Scotland, established in September 1781; a second, of the British Linen Company, which was first established in August 1804, and after having been given up for many years, was re-opened in July 1831; a third, of the Commercial Bank, begun in 1812, but afterwards withdrawn, and again permanently established in June 1823; and a fourth, of the Edinburgh and Leith Bank, begun on 22d May 1840. The National Bank has had a bill-collector here since April 1825.

*National Security Savings Bank*.—A savings bank was established in Dunfermline in 1815, and connected with the National Security Savings Bank in 1838. Its business is greatly increased in consequence of this connection, the amount of the sums deposited for ten years previous to 1838, reckoned on the 30th of April of that year, varying from L.2467 to L.4439; while from the 20th No-



vember 1838 to the 1st June 1841, it varied from L.5370 to L.15,251.

The following were the sums invested yearly, and the number of depositors, during the ten years above mentioned, viz. from 30th April 1828 to 30th April 1837, both inclusive :—

	Sums deposited.			No. of depositors.		
1828,	-	-	L.2467	3	4	440
1829,	-	-	2616	5	1	438
1830,	-	-	3964	17	2	418
1831,	-	-	2990	12	4	406
1832,	-	-	3075	16	5	406
1833,	-	-	3242	6	8	423
1834,	-	-	3489	9	0	450
1835,	-	-	3664	10	6	421
1836,	-	-	4109	13	9	460
1837,	-	-	4439	10	9	488

Tabular view of the progressive advance of the Institution, from its commencement on the 18th September 1838 to 20th November 1842.

At 20th Nov.	No. of ac- counts opened.	Amount de- posited.	Principal sums and interest repaid.	Transactions.
1838	430	L.5370 12 9	L.107 13 1	605
1839	435	8203 7 2	3276 13 2	2508
1840	310	6739 13 3	4024 17 9	2916
1841	338	7718 3 4	5639 6 11	3205
1842	212	6611 12 10	7585 12 0	2956
	1725	L.34,643 9 4	L.20,634 2 11	12190

The number of depositors, at 20th November 1842, was 990. Of these, there were accounts containing sums

Under L.5,	336
From L.5 to L.10,	185
... 10 to 20,	209
... 20 to 50,	191
... 50 to 100,	47
... 100 to 200,	11
Charitable Societies,	10
Friendly Do.	1
	990

Classification of Depositors, by their designations, who have opened Accounts from 18th September 1838 to 20th November 1842.

#### FEMALES.

Domestic servants,	209
Farm domestic servants,	77
Single women, without designation, generally persons keeping house by themselves, or for a father, or other relative,	236
Married women, without designation, generally the wives of operatives,	59
Widows, designated simply as such,	86
Minors,	45
Miscellaneous designations,	63

Total number of accounts opened by females, 775

## MALES.

Weavers,	252
Mechanics and operatives of all kinds,	155
Coal-hewers, miners, quarrymen, and labourers,	108
Farmers, and farm-servants, and others engaged in agricultural employment,	107
Minors,	76
Miscellaneous designations,	168
No designation,	62
<hr/>	
Total number of accounts opened by males,	928
Ditto ditto females,	775
Ditto ditto societies,	22
<hr/>	
Total accounts opened,	1725

Sum total constituting the funds of the Bank, as at 20th November 1842, L.15,778, 9s. 6d.; of which sum L.5834, 15s. 2d. were held by 730 depositors, of not more than L.20 each, out of 990; clearly evincing that the Bank is what it professes to be,—the working-man's bank, and that the operative classes generally continue to repose in it their wonted confidence.

A marked improvement has taken place since November 1842,—so much so, that the number of depositors on 2d November 1843 was 1021, while the total funds of the Bank, on 20th November, were L.18,232, 15s. 4d.; and on 12th December of the same year, L.18,915, 17s. 11d.

*Guildry.*—The fraternity is of very great antiquity in this town, having been incorporated, there is reason to believe, by a charter from the monastery, as early as the close of the fourteenth century. Its funds are applied to the relief of its decayed members, and widows of members deceased, and to educational purposes. It distributes about L.50 annually in charity.

*Incorporated Trades.*—These are eight in number, and stand in order of precedence, to which they attach some importance, thus:—Smiths or hammermen, weavers, wrights, tailors, shoemakers, baxters (bakers), masous, and fleshers. They have each a separate charter, named a gift, or seal of cause, granted by the magistrates and town-council, by authority, it is understood, of the Crown.

There are several Horticultural Societies, and one Ornithological, in the parish.

*Western District of Fife Agricultural Society.*—The meetings of this Society are held in Dunfermline annually, in the month of July. Its yearly subscriptions average from L.40 to L.50, and are expended at each show of cattle and horses. In addition to the ordinary annual premiums, occasional extraordinary pre-



miums are awarded at the exhibitions, offered by the Society, through the liberality of some of the landed gentlemen of the district. Since 1824, there has been given away in premiums considerably upwards of L.1000.

*Gas Company.*—This was instituted 11th November 1828, and its extensive work, situated towards the lower end of the town, commenced lighting on the 28th October 1829. The cost of the works, up to May 1843, was L.11,277, 13s. 6d., being L.9200, the capital stock at the same period on 860 shares, and L.2077, 13s. 6d., the old sinking fund, and premiums on shares expended on works. The original price of the shares was L.10, and the present selling price is L.21. The new sinking fund, at May last, was L.992, 7s. 1d. A dividend upon the original stock of L.10 per cent. has been paid almost every year, and for the last four years of L.12, 10s., notwithstanding the price of the gas being understood to be as moderate as that of any other company, if not more so. It is furnished at present, by meter, at 7s. 6d. per 1000 cubic feet, and has always been considered of superior quality.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Dunfermline is a market town and royal burgh. A corn market is held at it every Tuesday for the sale of grain by sample, and is well attended by the agriculturists of the district. There is a weekly market also every Friday for butter, cheese, eggs, &c.

The burgh is governed by a provost, two bailies, a treasurer, a guild magistrate, a chamberlain, and sixteen councillors, with the assistance of a town-clerk, who acts also as legal assessor. Their election is regulated by the general amended municipal act of Parliament, dated 24th August 1833. The provost and magistrates have the usual jurisdiction, civil and criminal, belonging to magistrates of royal burghs. They hold regular courts, with the town clerk as their assessor, once every week, on Wednesday, for the disposal of police cases, and on the same day, besides the ordinary court, what is denominated “The Nine Merk Court,” for the recovery of small debts not exceeding ten shillings. Upon the decret of this last court, summary diligence can be executed. They also hold a court twice a-year for granting certificates to publicans. The provost is *ex officio* a justice of the peace, and sits in the courts held by the justices.

The annual revenue of the burgh is about L.1000, derived from the rents of five small farms still belonging to it, &c. The

burgh pays to Government yearly the sum of L.78 of land-tax, or town-cess, besides a sum of L.8 or L.10, in support of the convention of royal burghs, all levied from the property of the inhabitants within burgh.

*Guild Court.*—Formerly the Dean of the fraternity of Guildry was a member of Council, and presided in this court. Now, the Guild Magistrate is chosen by the Council themselves, and he and four councillors form the court. Their duty is to decide upon questions relative to ruinous tenements, and disputed marches within burgh, and to attend to the correctness of weights and measures.

*Police.*—In 1811, a police bill was obtained from Parliament, not only for the purpose of regulating the police of the town, but of granting powers for paving, lighting, and cleansing the streets—for removing nuisances and obstructions therefrom, and for opening new and widening the present streets; and likewise for increasing the supply of water for the use of the burgh.

This act has done much good, in promoting the accommodation, health, security, and comfort of the community; and, by continued vigorous management, it may be expected to preserve and increase these important civil advantages.

A county police having been lately established, Dunfermline has been made the head-quarters for the western district of the county, where an inspector and two constables are stationed.

There are a sheriff, a small debt, and a justice of peace court.

Dunfermline unites with the burghs of Stirling, Inverkeithing, Culross, and South Queensferry, in sending a Member to the British House of Commons. Stirling is the returning burgh, and Lord Dalmeny the present member.

*Internal Communication, &c.*—Dunfermline is a post-town.

The length of the turnpike roads in the parish is about thirty-one miles.

Two coaches daily leave Dunfermline for Edinburgh, and two return. A coach goes every morning to Falkirk, for the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, and returns in the evening.

The bridges and fences in the parish are in good condition. There being no rivers, the bridges are small.

There are several railroads, chiefly for the conveyance of coal; one from the Elgin and Wellwood collieries to Charleston harbour, and another from the Halbeath and Townhill collieries to the port at Inverkeithing.



There are three harbours in, or close to the parish, belonging to the Earl of Elgin, viz. Charleston, Limekilns, and Brucehaven.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The Abbey Parish Church is situated in the town of Dunfermline, about two miles from the nearest, and six from the furthest boundary of the parish. Of course it is not convenient for the distant part of the population, for there are 1000 inhabited dwelling-houses more than two miles, one-half of which are nearly four, about 15 are further than four, and two or three are about six miles distant from the church. There is a dissenting church in two of the extreme positions—Crossgates and Limekilns.

The New Abbey Church was built in 1821, and opened for divine service on the 30th September of that year. It needed repair so early as 1834–5 from dry-rot, but is at present in excellent condition. It affords nominal accommodation for 2051 persons, but there are 552 sittings in a measure useless, from inconvenient position, 402 of these being behind either pillars or the pulpit, so that the minister cannot be seen from them; and in the rest he can scarcely be heard, on account of the echo or distance from the speaker. Indeed, the accommodation which can be considered available is only about 1400, and much of this requires and could receive improvement. Suggestions for this purpose have often been made, and some of them tried, with more or less success, but none of them have yet been adopted. There are 110 free sittings allocated to the poor, but from being considerably behind the pulpit, are quite useless, and never occupied. A few temporary forms have been placed for their use near the pulpit, which are generally well filled. This want of due accommodation for the poor has always been considered a great evil. A few of the heritors and tenants take rents for their sittings, which they do not themselves occupy. The burgh having paid a fifth of the expense of erecting the church, obtained a fifth of the area in return, and have accordingly sold several of their pews to private individuals.

From time immemorial, there had been neither manse nor pasture-ground belonging to the ministers of Dunfermline; but there were paid to the senior minister, in lieu of the former, L.3, 6s. 8d., and of the latter L.1, 13s. 4d. One of the ministers, during last century, sued for a manse, without success; but the late Rev. Allan M'Lean, minister of the first charge, having discovered that

anciently there had been a manse, renewed the action in 1803, both for the manse and pasture-ground, and succeeded, first in the Court of Session, and afterwards in the House of Peers, on an appeal by the heritors, after a litigation of ten years. He obtained possession of the present manse in September 1816, and remuneration for the want of it from Martinmas 1804; and for that of the grass glebe from Martinmas 1803. The deficiency in the arable glebe, caused by the manse being built on part of it, was ordered to be made up, along with the ground to be allocated for the grass glebe. An allocation took place by the Sheriff of the county on 11th July 1814, but, from various reasons, the designation of it was never completed, and the minister has not yet obtained possession. The heritors, however, paid L.24 per annum, in lieu of the pasture and deficiency of the arable glebe, till 1840, when, by mutual agreement between them and the present minister, it was reduced to L.20, and to continue at that rate till a glebe be provided. The arable glebe is at present nearly 3½ acres, and yields a rental of L.15 per annum. The manse underwent a considerable enlargement and repair, partly at the expense of the heritors, and partly of the present minister, when he entered it in 1836, on his translation from the second to the first charge. There is neither manse nor glebe attached to the second charge. The stipends of the two collegiate ministers are the same, viz. 19 chalders of victual, one half meal and the other barley, at the rate of the Fife fiars, with L.10 for communion elements each. The number of persons that communicated at the last dispensation of the sacrament, in December 1843, was nearly 500, only about 200 less than the average for these some years past, in winter, notwithstanding that the Episcopal, North Extension, and Free Churches have been opened since 1840. The number of communicants on the roll is, of course, considerably greater. The present minister of the first charge is the Rev. Peter Chalmers, A.M. The second charge is vacant.

*Quoad Sacra Churches.*—There are two *quoad sacra* churches in Dunfermline.

1. *St Andrew's*, which was once a Chapel of Ease. The sittings of the church are 797. There are also a house and garden. Present minister, Rev. Andrew Sutherland, A.M., admitted 28th March 1839. He has joined the Free Church.

2. *North Church.*—An extension church, at the east end of Golfdrum, was opened for worship in November 1840,—sittings



800. It cost L.1673, of which were raised by subscription L.1002, and received from the General Assembly's Extension Fund L.411; drawback on materials, interest of money, and revenue from church after being opened, L.259; so that it is free from debt. No manse or garden. Present minister, Rev. Charles Marshall, admitted June 1841,—who has subsequently joined the Free Church.

From 1839 till the summer of 1843 there was another *quoad sacra* church, named the *Canmore Street Church*, in connection with the Establishment, and formerly in connection with the Original Burgher Synod, established in 1799. Its last minister, Rev. William Dalziel, admitted to it in 1815, was inducted, in September last, minister of the church and parish of Thurso, and the congregation have connected themselves with other churches.

*Free Churches.*—There are at present (January 1844) three Free Church congregations: 1. *St Andrew's*; 2. *North Church*; 3. *The Abbey*, (or as at first called, Abbey and Canmore Street congregations, from most of the elders and many of the people of the latter having joined the former.)

*Dissenting Churches.*—It is well known that Dunfermline has always been a principal seat of dissent, ever since the Secession from the Establishment of the Rev. Ralph Erskine, who was one of the parochial ministers here, and his deposition by the General Assembly in 1740, when he became one of the chief supporters of the Associate Synod, and had a large congregation in this place; as also, since the deposition of the Rev. Thomas Gillespie, minister of Carnock in 1752, which gave rise to the formation of the first Relief congregation in Scotland, in this town. The following are the churches in connection with one or other of the different branches of dissent.

There are six churches belonging to the United Associate Synod.

1. *Queen Anne Street* congregation, founded in 1743, under Rev. Ralph Erskine. Sittings, 1642. Stipend L.200, with L.10 for communion elements, and house and garden. Present minister, Rev. James Young, admitted June 1831.

2. *St Margaret's*, East Port, founded 1825, in consequence of a separation from Queen Anne Street Congregation, caused by a dispute about the appointment of a minister. Sittings, 979. Stipend L.175, with L.10 for sacramental expenses, and L.15 in aid of house rent. The minister's life is insured by the congregation, for the benefit of his family, for L.500. Rev. John Law, admitted 1828.

3. *Chalmers' Street*, founded in 1788, formerly of the Anti-

burgher Synod. Sittings, 430. Stipend, L.120, with L.8 for sacramental expenses. No house or garden, or other provision.

4. *Maygate*, founded in September 1832,\* by a separation from the Chalmers' Street Congregation, along with their minister, Mr Barlas. Sittings, 410. Stipend, L.100 to L.120. No house or garden. Rev. James Gibson, admitted 1841.

5. *Limekilns*, founded in 1784. Sittings of New Church (built in 1825), 1056. Stipend, L.150, with L.10 for sacramental expenses, and a house, rebuilt 1841. Rev. William Johnston, admitted 1823.

6. *Crossgates*, founded in May 1803. Sittings, 530. Stipend, L.100, with L.8 for sacramental expenses, and house and garden. Rev. Thomas Wilson, admitted 26th November 1811.

There is one *Relief* Congregation, the first in Scotland, as stated in the preceding page, founded in 1752. Sittings of the church, North Chapel Street, 520. Stipend L.150, with a house and garden. Rev. Niel M'Michael, admitted 1835, and appointed Professor of Systematic Theology and Church History 1841.

*Scottish Baptist Church*, founded about 1805. Sittings of church, James' Street, 310. Pastors, Mr David Dewar, since 1815, and Messrs A. Kirk and J. Inglis. Services gratuitous.

From this church there were, in 1841, two separations. The one was under Mr Blair, as their pastor, formerly home missionary, and still acting as such. The principles of this body are those of the English Baptists. They meet in the Music Hall, North Inglis Street. The other was of persons who take the designation of "Christians" from Acts xi. 26, who have no creed, oral or written, but the Bible. They are usually styled *Campbellites*, after a Mr Campbell in America, to whose opinions regarding the influence of the Spirit, and instrumentality of the Word, in conversion, they are understood to be favourable. They have as yet no pastor, and meet in the Old Mason Lodge, Maygate.

*Congregational or Independent Church*, founded in 1841. Place of worship opened in Canmore Street, 2d Jan. 1842. Sittings about 700. Stipend, L.100. Present minister, Rev. George Thomson.

*Holy Catholic Apostolic Congregation*, commonly called *Rowite* or *Irvingite*, from the general conformity of their opinions and government to those of the religious community so named, founded in 1835. Their pastor is the Rev. William Cannan, who at present resides in Dundee, and occasionally visits them. In his ab-

\* The building was erected in 1815-16 for a Methodist congregation.



sence two elders conduct public worship, and dispense the sacraments. They meet at present in a room in Horsemarket Street. The pastor has no fixed salary, but provision is made for him, partly from funds contributed by the united body, in aid of weak congregations.

*Roman Catholic Congregation*, founded in 1823. Having no resident priest, they meet in the dwelling-houses of two of their members, who conduct the usual services, but of course do not perform mass.

*Scottish Episcopal (Trinity) Chapel*.—Founded in 1840. Sitings, 342 in the low area, and, if fitted up with galleries, about 500. Present stipend, L.100. Rev. T. B. Field, admitted December 1841.

There are also a few Swedenborgians, Unitarians, Methodists, and Friends; but the last three have no separate meetings for worship.

The stipends of the Dissenting ministers are dependent upon the promise, affection, or liberality of their people, although generally paid according to the amount which has been specified.

The population of the parish, as taken in March 1836, and reported to the Religious Instruction Commissioners, without challenge, in 1838, was as follows:—

1. Belonging to the Established Church,	7006
2. Known to belong to other religious denominations,	9776
3. Not known to belong to any religious denomination,	504
Total,	17,286

Since that period, great changes have taken place; but, from an ecclesiastical census taken by me in 1841, according to the Government census of that year, and from information recently obtained, I think the following may be regarded as at least an approximation to the present number of persons, of all ages, belonging to the different religious denominations:—

Establishment,	4000*
Free Church,	2500
United Secession,	8000
Relief,	700
Baptists—James' Street and Inglis' Street } —— Maygate,	300
Episcopalians,	160
Congregationalists,	430
Rowites,	40
Roman Catholics,	100
Swedenborgians,	60

\* Calculated from the number of those who declared themselves in 1841 connected with the Establishment, after deducting about 1600, as mere *nominal* adherents, put into the class of "Not known," &c, and 2500, stated to belong to the Free Church.

Unitarians,	35
Methodists and Friends,	20
Not known to belong to any denomination, including some Chartists and Socialists, about	3433
Total,	19,778

Divine service, it is believed, has been generally well attended in the different churches, according to the number acknowledged to belong to them, till within these last two years, when, chiefly from the poverty caused by the long depression of trade, it has in most of them considerably fallen off.

A missionary (Mr Joseph Hay) has been employed during these last two or three years in visiting the town of Dunfermline. His services meet with much acceptance. He receives from L.40 to L.50 of salary, paid by the inhabitants generally, without regard to religious denomination. He belongs to the United Secession.

*Religious Societies.*—There are a Bible and a Sabbath School Society in the parish. Sums are likewise raised privately and by collections for the support of native missionaries and of Female Education in India.

The Dissenting congregations collect annually for missionary purposes.

The Abbey parish church collects regularly for each of the five Schemes of the General Assembly, as well as occasionally for other religious and charitable purposes; the average annual amount of which for seven years, viz. 1836–42 inclusive, has been nearly L.50. It besides collected, previous to the commencement of the legal assessment in 1839, about L.120 annually, for the ordinary parochial and extraordinary poor; but since that period, such collections have been reduced to about a third of that sum.

The St Andrew's and North Churches have also made collections for several of the Assembly's Schemes, and other religious and useful purposes.

*Education.*—The total number of schools, in 1844, in the original or *quoad civilia* parish, exclusive of North Queensferry, was 32. There is no parochial, but there is one burgh school. Of the others, there are 15 partly endowed, and 6 unendowed. One school in town is supported, in part, by a society of ladies. The endowment in general consists either of a salary or a free school-room, or one or both of these, and a free dwelling-house. The unendowed schools are entirely on the teachers' own adventure. The total number of teachers at all these schools was 37, and of scholars, exclusive of those attending evening schools, 2622, or



about 1 in  $7\frac{1}{2}$  of the population, a considerable improvement since March 1842, when it was only about 1 in  $8\frac{1}{2}$ .

There are two infant and five female schools in the parish. There is connected with the large female school in High Street, Dunfermline, a deposit fund, for aiding the poor in procuring clothes, one-third more being added to the amount of their own contributions, and repaid in clothing.

At the *Rolland, or Priory Lane School*, there are between 180 or 190 children taught, almost all of the working and poorer classes, the fee for English reading being only 2s. per quarter. It is under the direction of the magistrates and council, who, by a late arrangement with the burgh creditors, hold it as trustees for the institution, unaffected now for burgh debts.

At the *MacLean School*, Golfdrum, opened in 1842, the fees are on a low and graduated scale, to suit the working and poorer classes.

There are from 30 to 40 children taught gratuitously at this school, on a legacy of the late Rev. Allan M'Lean, minister of the parish, out of whose funds, with some aid from Government, this educational establishment was erected. The legacy consists of a dwelling-house and some ground, both adjacent to the school; the rent and feus of which go to the purpose specified. It is under the management of the kirk-session of the Abbey Church.

The children taught *gratis* receive the same branches of education with those who pay. The total number attending the schools is about 200.

At all the *collieries* there are excellent schools, and as the payments are now made *universal* and *compulsory*, there is a much more regular attendance than formerly.

A few years ago, four or five *deaf* and *dumb* children, belonging to the parish, were taught in Rolland School for two years and a half, by a deaf and dumb young woman, also a native of it, who had previously received a good education in the Edinburgh Institution. The experiment, which was undertaken by the writer, from inability to procure funds for sending so many of these helpless children to a public institution, and persevered in by him amid many discouragements, succeeded far beyond his expectations, and evinced the entire practicability of the deaf and dumb teaching others, in the same unhappy condition. The want of a sufficient supply of suitable books and other materials prevented the experiment being carried to its full extent; but funds coming to be at his disposal, from a bequest of his late colleague, some of the chil-

dren were sent to the deaf and dumb institution in Glasgow, who made very rapid progress in their farther education, and in religious knowledge and character.

*Literature.*—The *Dunfermline Library* was instituted on the 26th of February 1789, and contains nearly 3000 volumes, the property of the shareholders, and embracing standard works in all the departments of general knowledge.

There is also a *Tradesmen's and Mechanics' Library*, being a union of two libraries, one of the Tradesmen's, instituted in 1808, and the other belonging to the Mechanics' Institution, which was joined to it in 1832. The united library contains about 2000 volumes, well selected in all the departments of science and art, moral and political philosophy, history, theology, &c.

There is also a *Circulating Library* kept at Bridge Street, by Mr Miller, bookseller.

The Abbey, St Andrew's, and some other congregations in town, have good libraries of religious books connected with them.

A *Scientific Association* was formed in 1834, which has always been popular, and the admission ticket being low, the attendance has been numerous. Useful, and at times interesting and attractive, courses of lectures have been delivered each winter, in one of the Dissenting churches, since its commencement.

Dunfermline has one *public reading-room* in the Town-Hall, three *printing-offices*, and four booksellers. There are two monthly advertising papers, containing also some general information, published alternately, once a-fortnight, the one named the "Dunfermline Advertiser," and the other the "Dunfermline Journal," each having a circulation of about 3000.

*Charitable and other Institutions.*—A *Poor's House* has been erected by the Poor's Board in the upper part of the Town Green, east from the burgh. It is supported by the ordinary legal assessment, and the revenue arising from Reid's Mortification, a property bequeathed by John Reid, shopkeeper in Dunfermline, in a deed dated 17th April 1776, for the relief of poor householders and other persons, who had once been in good worldly circumstances, but which was, by an express provision in said deed, to be applied to a poor's-house or orphan-house, when built in the parish. The rental of this property exceeds L.100 annually. The poor's-house accommodates about 130 inmates of various classes.

*Grame's Mortification.*—In the year 1710, six hundred merks



Scots (L.33, 6s. 8d. sterling), the money found in the poor's box at the death of Mr Grame, the last Episcopal clergyman of Dunfermline, was, by the Justices of the Peace, Heritors, and Town-Council, mortified in the hands of the Town-Council, for the use of the poor. The town, at the same time, came under an obligation to pay the interest yearly—one half to the poor of the burgh, and the other half to the poor in the landward part of the parish. On 19th April 1757, the town paid L.50 Scots, as interest for five years, to a meeting of heritors and session, which was forthwith ordered to be paid to the poor in the landward part of the parish. Whether, or how it has been subsequently applied, I have not been able to ascertain.

*Jermin's Mortification.*—The donor and original amount of this bequest seem at present equally unknown, but it is also in the hands of the Town Council, and small payments have at different periods been made from it to the poor, as in 1829 of L.5, in 1830 and 1832 of L.1, 14s., and in 1832 of 17s. 6d. No payments have been made since the trust commenced in 1835.

*St Leonard's Hospital.*—This is the most ancient charitable institution now in the parish, but the exact date of it has not been ascertained. The object of it was the maintenance of eight widows, each of whom was entitled to four bolls of meal, four bolls of malt, eight loads of coal (now converted into 4d. per load), eight lippies of fine wheat, eight lippies of groats (dressed oats), and, according to one account, also fourteen loads of turf yearly, with a chamber in the Hospital, and a small garden. Some of them had also at one time 2s. silver yearly to buy pins. The provision for them is payable from the produce of sixty-four acres of land, in the immediate vicinity of the place where the Hospital once stood. The average annual amount received by each of them, for the last five years, has been L.8, 9s. 3d., with a small deduction for collecting and public assessments, and 1d. for pin money.

*Pitreavie's Hospital.*—In the year 1675, Sir Henry Wardlaw of Pitreavie, Baronet, “for implement and fulfilling of several vows, promises, and engagements, made by him before God, after great mercies received, and for certain other good causes, motives, and considerations,” instituted an hospital at the village of Masterton, in the south-eastern part of the parish, a house of four rooms, still remaining, in favour of four widows, “women of honest fame, relicts of honest husbands, who live on the ground of Pitreavie, or other ground belonging to him and his succes-

sors," and *failing widows of this description*, such other honest women as the patron shall please to prefer. Each of the widows was to have a chamber in the hospital, and six bolls of meal yearly, or one half oats, the other bear, at the option of the patron. The eighth (auchtand) part of the lands of Masterton was burdened with the provision of these twenty-four bolls victual.

*Friendly Societies.*—In 1815 there were twelve Friendly Societies in the parish, and the number increased afterwards; but a few years ago most of them were found to have been formed upon a very insecure basis, and they are now almost all extinct.

Those which remain are the following:—

1st, "*The ancient Society of Gardeners, in and about Dunfermline.*" This is understood to be the most ancient Gardeners' Society existing. The exact date of its institution is unknown, but it existed, as appears from its records, as early at least as the 16th October 1716.

2d, *Dunfermline Philanthropic Society.*—This Society was constituted 17th March 1815, and its articles were confirmed at Cupar on the 4th March 1817, and revised 1st November 1835. With the exception of the Society of Gardeners, this is the only one in town which has survived the fall of the numerous similar societies which previously existed, in regard at least to the *sickness* scheme.

3. *Dunfermline Equitable Friendly Institution.*—This was begun 9th February 1827, and confirmed at Cupar on the 28th March 1831.

4th, There are many other strictly *funeral societies*, one of which, entitled "The Woodhead Street Benevolent Funeral Society," was instituted 26th January 1821, and confirmed 21st May 1833.

5th, There are also "*Yearly Societies*" in the town of Dunfermline, both for sick and funeral purposes, the constitution of which is peculiar. Each member pays not less than 1s. weekly, the whole of which he is entitled to receive back at the end of the year, if not previously paid. These societies are safe, and have been found very beneficial to the working classes.

6th, There are also societies called "*Menages*," on the same principle as the yearly societies, but without the provision for sick and funeral expenses.

7th, *Malcolm Canmore Lodge of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows* was instituted here on the 19th April 1842, in connec-



tion with the Manchester Unity. It has assumed "Malcolm Canmore" into its title, in memory of the Scottish monarch, who was so closely connected with this place.

8th, *Rechabites*.—A Tent of the independent new order of this race of persons, named the "Robert the Bruce" Tent, was formed in Dunfermline 1841. The principal feature of their character is, that they will drink neither wine nor strong drink; and, in a spirit of brotherly kindness, they are associated for the purpose of granting assistance during sickness and at bereavements by death.

9th, *Charleston Friendly Relief Society*, instituted 1784.

10th, *Charleston Sick Fund*, instituted about 1841.

11th, *Limekilns Merchant Seamen's Fund*, a national one, instituted by act of Parliament, in August 1834.

12th, *Limekilns United Seamen's Society*, instituted about three years ago.

13th, At Charleston and Limekilns, there are also *Funeral Societies*—the one at the former village consisting of about 200, and at the latter of 300 members.

*Poor and Parochial Funds*.—Till 1815, there was a voluntary assessment laid annually upon the heritors resident and non-resident, in proportion to their respective valued rents, and made over to the kirk-session, to be distributed to the poor on their list, among whom were a few Dissenters. The average amount of this assessment for ten years, extending from January 1807 to January 1817, was nearly L.300, and the average annual amount of collections in the parish church and chapel of ease, during the same period, was L.71, from which, and the money obtained from burying ground, along with the rents of a little property in the hands of the kirk-session, about 100 paupers were supported. The Dissenters at that time generally maintained their own poor. In 1815, a *Voluntary Association* for support of the poor was formed, managed by a committee of heritors, ministers, and inhabitants of all religious denominations; the funds of which were raised by subscriptions from the heritors and householders, from annual collections in the chapel of ease and dissenting churches, and from one general annual collection, at a sermon preached for the purpose, in one of the largest churches. The kirk-session did not enter into this Association, but retained their own collections and property, the proceeds of which they distributed among as many poor of the Establishment as these funds would allow of.

Tabular View of the Working of the Voluntary Association for the support of the Poor, for the last ten years of its existence,—viz. 1828-9,—1837-8, inclusive.

Years ending April.	Total Receipts.		Subscriptions and Donations of Heritors.		Subscriptions and Collections of the Inhabitants of the Town, and a few Farmers.				Sale of Effects of Paupers.		No. of Poor—each Family counted one.	Average Weekly Payment from Total Expenditure.		Paid to Regular Poor.		Total Expenditure, including cases of incidental distress, Coffins to Poor, Printing Annual Report, Expense of Management, &c.	
	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.		d.	s. d.	L.	s. d.	L.	s. d.
1829	581	5 9½	351	2 11	137	11 9	90	15 7½	228	7 4½	211	11½	5 3	524	5 3	589	2 4½
1830	592	3 6½	359	4 1	146	19 9½	80	4 8	227	4 5	238	11	8 6	529	8 6	592	3 6½
1831	580	6 3	363	0 6	129	13 6	78	4 7½	207	18 1½	250	11	8 8	558	3 8	607	4 10
1832	670	16 5	427	17 6	135	19 0	98	9 1	234	8 1	262	11½	4 6	568	4 6	646	19 6
1833	659	11 10	407	12 6	136	13 0	78	11 8	215	4 8	270	11½	6 6	618	16 6	671	17 10
1834	715	19 6	496	5 5½	161	7 4	56	11 1½	217	18 5½	272	12½	2 2	658	10 2	717	18 4½
1835	716	14 10	500	0 0	156	9 0	59	0 1	215	9 1	266	12½	7½	663	17 7½	736	8 5
1836	717	8 2	500	0 0	162	19 6	52	1 2	215	0 8	291	12	3	689	14 3	759	9 1
1837	847	19 3	536	0 2	265	17 0	46	2 1	311	19 1	300	12½	1	726	16 1	818	15 6
1838	976	18 1½	640	0 0	246	0 0	44	0 0	290	0 0	342	13	2	894	6 2	961	16 2½
Average for 1815,-16,-17, and 18, .....																	820 0 0
											256	15	7 9	751	7 9	820	0 0



# Tabular View of the Working of the Legal Assessment, for the first four complete years of its existence.

## I. POOR.

1. Total number of ordinary poor, including the fatuous, on the roll for twelve months, ending on 31st January,	{ 1839-40.....403 { 1840-41.....395	Average, 412
On 15th of May,*	{ 1841-42.....422 { 1842-43.....431	
2. Total number of occasional poor relieved during the same period,	{ For 1840 .....168 { 1841 .....411 { 1842 about 600 { 1843.....1534	678
3. Total number of insane poor in asylums,	{ For 1840.....6 { 1841.....6 { 1842.....8 { 1843.....8+	7

## II. FUNDS.

1. Collections in the Abbey Parish Church (one half) for period above specified,†	{ For 1840, L.21 8 0 { 1841, 19 8 9 { 1842, 18 2 1 { 1843, 13 0 6	L.17 19 10
2. Total ditto in St Andrew's unendowed Church for ditto,	{ For 1840, L.2 12 0 { 1841, 1 12 9½ { 1842, 1 8 11 { 1843, 0 17 11	1 12 10¾
3. Assessment,§	{ For 1840, L.2260 0 0 { 1841, 2244 17 0 { 1842, 2275 17 5 { 1843, 2659 0 2	2359 18 7¾
4. Miscellaneous,	{ For 1840, L.1 0 0 { 1841, none. { 1842, none. { 1843, 11 10 4	3 2 7
Total receipts for these four years,		L.9530 15 10½
Average of ditto,		2382 13 11½

## III. APPLICATION OF FUNDS.

1. Amount given to paupers on the Permanent roll, including clothing, coals, medicines, and funeral charges, for the year ending as above,	{ For 1840, L.1344 19 11 { 1841, 1414 12 10 { 1842, 1598 15 8 { 1843, 1614 16 10	L.1493 6 3¼
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\* 3½ months, viz. from 2d February to 15th May 1841, are omitted in the calculation, the Board having found it expedient to change, at that period, the time of reckoning the commencement of the year, making it from Whitsunday instead of Candlemas.

† Of these eight, three are at Dundee and two at Edinburgh Asylums, while three are in the poor's house, having been brought to it from Dundee this last summer. Another was added to the poor's house in December 1843; in all at present, 9.

‡ Previous to the legal assessment in 1839, the whole ordinary collections for the poor averaged L. 90, and along with the extraordinary for ditto, L. 120.

§ This assessment included a sum of L. 500 per annum, applicable towards the erection of a Poor's house. This was continued till May 1843. A revenue, somewhat exceeding L. 100 annually, derived from Reid's mortification, now becomes available for the Poor's house, since its erection in 1843.

2. Amount given to paupers on Occasional roll, during the same period, { For 1840, L.142 0 0 } Average.  
 1841, 159 15 10 } L.190 9 5½  
 1842, 173 15 10  
 1843, 286 6 1

3. Ditto to paupers residing out of the parish, { For 1840, none. }  
 1841, L. 49 4 11 } L.56 18 4½  
 1842, 67 14 7  
 1843, 110 14 1

4. Ditto to insane paupers at Asylums,\* { For 1840, L.126 0 0 }  
 1841, 144 18 4 } L.146 2 11½  
 1842, 168 8 1  
 1843, 145 5 4

5. Expense of levying the assessment and general management,† { For 1840, L.170 0 0 }  
 1841, 84 3 8 } L.115 14 8  
 1842, 105 5 0  
 1843, 103 10 0

6. Expense caused by prosecuting the fathers of illegitimate children, and husbands absconding, { For 1840, none. }  
 1841, L.9 16 8 } L.5 19 3½  
 1842, 8 12 6  
 1843, 5 8 0

7. Miscellaneous, { For 1840, L.83 17 11 }  
 1841, 73 11 0 } L.65 0 6½  
 1842, 45 17 6  
 1843, 56 15 10

Total expenditure for four years, . . . L.8294 6 6

Average yearly expenditure, . . . L.2073 11 7½

#### IV. MANAGEMENT.

1. Number of persons giving their services gratuitously, in looking after the poor, and having a district set apart to each for his superintendence. These, along with some members, not attached to any particular district, constitute the Poor's Board, and are elected by the rate-payers annually, voting *per capita*, { For 1840, 60 }  
 1841, 60 }  
 1842, 60 }  
 1843, 72 }

2. Number of persons who receive salaries, viz. manager, clerk, surgeon, and officer,‡ { For 1840, }  
 1841, } 4  
 1842, }  
 1843, }

3. Number of persons employed in levying the assessment, { For 1840, 3 }  
 1841, 2 }  
 1842, 1 }  
 1843, 1 }

Total number of persons employed in 1842-43 gratuitously or with salaries, in the management of the poor, exclusive of a few additional members of the Board, } 76

The assessment for 1841-42 was, on a rental of L.51,074, at 1s., and for 1842-43, L.50,644, 10s., at 1s. 2d. per pound, with an exemption for all rents under L.3.

\* The expense of each lunatic at the Asylum is, about L.21 yearly.

† The great difference between these sums arose from the extra assistance required in 1840, in surveying the property in burgh and landward, for obtaining a correct valuation, &c., and from an addition being made in 1842 to the surgeon's salary.

‡ Manager's salary, L.70 per annum; surgeon's, L.21; clerk's, L.10; officer's, L.2, 10s.



Classification of Rates of Aliment paid to the Ordinary Poor on the Roll, at Whitsunday 1841-43.

No. of Cases at each rate for	RATES PER MONTH.																				Total cases.
	2s.	2s. 6d.	3s.	3s. 6d.	4s.	5s.	6s.	6s. 6d.	7s.	8s.	9s.	10s.	11s.	12s.	13s.	14s.	15s.	16s.	20s.	24s.	
1841	5	26	33	3	99	87	49	1	15	55	5	19	1	8	4	2	...	1	3	1	417
1842	4	21	31	2	97	96	53	...	16	54	9	21	...	8	3	3	1	2	1	...	422
1843	3	23	29	1	97	88	59	...	20	58	6	25	...	9	3	3	...	4	2	1	431
Average number of cases in 1841-43, 423.																					

Average monthly allowance for	{	1840,	L.0	5	8
		1841,	0	5	5
		1842,	0	5	8½
		1843,	0	5	11

the average of the whole of which is 5s. 8d., being only 5d. more than was paid during the last year of the Voluntary Association, namely, 5s. 3d.

Average annual allowance to each case on the permanent roll for 12 months, ending 31st January 1840,										-	-	-	-	L.3	8	0	
... 1841,										-	-	-	-	-	3	5	0
Whitsunday 1842,										-	-	-	-	-	3	8	6
... 1843,										-	-	-	-	-	3	11	0

Average for 1840-43, - L.3 8 1

Prison.—The present prison has lately been enlarged, and much improved in its arrangements and security, but is still deficient in accommodation.

The following tables may be interesting and useful :—

TABLE I.—Age of Criminal Prisoners received from 1st July 1842 to 1st July 1843, as recorded on admission.

	1	2	3	4	5
	Under 17.	17 years & under 21.	21 years & under 50.	50 years & above.	Totals.
Males,	40	38	111	4	193
Females,	4	13	32	11	60
Totals,	44	51	143	15	253

TABLE II.—Previous Imprisonment in the said Prison of Criminal Prisoners received, during the said period.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
	Once before.	Twice.	Three times.	Four times.	Five times.	Six times and under Ten.	Ten times and under Twenty.	Totals.
Males,	19	20	7	4	4	7	2	63
Females,	5	3	4	2	2	1	2	19
Totals,	24	23	11	6	6	8	4	82

TABLE III.—Total number convicted, and sentenced to Imprisonment, during the said period.

Males,	162
Females,	54
Total,	216

TABLE IV.—State as to Instruction of Criminal Persons in Confinement, during the said period.

*On admission during the said period.*

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
	Could not read.	Read with difficulty.	Read well.	Total.	Could not write.	Could sign their name merely.	Write with difficulty.	Write well.	Total.	Had learned more than mere reading and writing.
Males,	44	93	77	214	87	34	79	12	212	2
Females,	14	35	16	65	50	6	6	3	65	...
Total,	58	128	93	279	137	40	85	15	277	2

*Improvement during the said period.*

	11	12
	Have improved in reading or writing, or both, in prison.	Have improved in arithmetic, or other branch of instruction.
Males,	106	29
Females,	2	...
Total,	108	29

TABLE V.—Number and Amount of Debts of Civil Prisoners.

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	No. owing L.8, 6s. 8d. & under.	Above L.8, 6s. 8d. & under L.20.	L.20, & under L.50.	L.50, & under L.100.	L.100, & under L.500.	Total.
Males,	1	6	1	2	1	11
Females,	None.					

A new and more commodious prison, the want of which has been long felt, is nearly finished, at the north-west corner of the town-green. It consists of three floors, each having six cells for criminal prisoners, well ventilated, and heated by flues. One on each flat has a fire-place. There are two commodious cells, with fire-places, for civil prisoners, and three apartments for the gaoler and matron, besides kitchen, bath-room, &c., for the prison. There are three corridors, or long passages, for exercise. The means for a complete classification and separation of prisoners are afforded, and the system, it is intended, will be put in force. The site contains two imperial acres, all of which will be enclosed, and part of it will be appropriated to an airing court. The new prison has been erected, and, like the old since 1840, will be



governed under the regulations of the new Jail Act. It has cost about L.2070, assessed upon the county generally.

*Police Cases.*—List of Individuals brought before the Police Court, from 1st November 1841 till 1st November 1842 and 1843, with their Offences, and amount of Fines realized.

	Disorderly, but not drunk.	Theft.	Reset.	Breach of Trust and Embezzlement.	Fraud and Imposition.	Drunk and Disorderly.	Contraventions of Police Act.	Assault.	Malicious Mischief.	TOTAL.			
1841-42,	90	60	1	51	14	73	16	84	14	357	L.	S.	D.
1842-43,	61	45	2	13	13	155	31	80	9	409	54	18	5
											53	17	9

From this list it appears that simple disorderliness and theft have been on the decrease, and that drunkenness with disorderliness has been considerably on the increase, during this last year.

*Fairs.*—There are eight public fairs held throughout the year in the town of Dunfermline, viz. on the third Tuesdays of January, March, April, June, July, September, October, and November, for the sale of horses, cattle, &c.

There is a weekly market held at the *Tron* on Friday, for the sale of butter, cheese, eggs, &c.; and a weekly corn-market at the *Cross* on Tuesday, at which the grain is disposed of by sample.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—The number of licensed houses for selling spirits, ales, &c., including shops in which groceries are also sold, were, for the last five years, as follows:

1838-39,	141
1839-40,	122
1840-41,	142
1841-42,	140
1842-43,	140

*Fuel.*—The fuel used is almost entirely coal, and is procured in abundance and of good quality in the parish, at various prices, of which a full account has been given, when treating of the collieries. There is little or no peat in this parish or vicinity, and there are perhaps few trees remaining of the ancient Forest of Dunfermline, in which Sir William Wallace found a safe retreat when pursued by his enemies.

*August 1844.*

## PARISH OF CARNBEE.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. ANSTRUTHER TAYLOR, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Etymology, &c.*—THE parish of Carnbee seems to have borne the same name in Roman Catholic times as at present, for mention is made of it at a very early date in the chartulary of the Abbey of Dunfermline, and it remained attached to that religious house till the abolition of Popery. A portion of the teinds is still paid to the lordship of Dunfermline, to which, on its erection, all the revenues of the abbey were conveyed by a grant from the Crown. It also appears, from “the Buik of the Universal Kirk,” that a Mr David Wemyss sat as member of Assembly for *the kirk of Carnbee* in the first General Assembly after the Reformation, held in 1563. The etymology of the name is given in the former Statistical Account as being derived from two Gaelic words, *carn* and *bee*, the first signifying *birch*, and the second *hill*; and the appearance of the locality, as well as certain names yet existing, accord with this etymology.

*Extent and Boundaries.*—The parish of Carnbee is bounded on the north by Cameron, Denino, and part of Crail; on the west, by Kilconquhar; on the south, by Abercrombie and St Monans, Pitteuweem, West Anstruther, and Kilrenny; and on the east, by Kilrenny and Crail. Its form is nearly a parallelogram, measuring about five miles in length, by four in breadth. The southern part of the parish is intersected from west to east by the turnpike-road leading from Colinsburgh by Kellie toll, towards Crail; which enters the parish at Pitcorthie, and passes out of it at the crossing of the Anstruther and St Andrews turnpike-road, at Pitkeerie wood, being a distance of nearly five miles; while the northern part of it is intersected in the same direction by the turnpike-road leading from Cupar to Crail, which enters the parish at Lathockar bridge, and, passing by Lingo and Lochty, leaves it about half a mile west-



ward of the point where this road crosses the Anstruther and St Andrews turnpike, at Drumrack. There is also a road which stretches from Balcarres Den, (the western boundary of the parish,) eastward through the middle of it, to the before-named turnpike at Burnside. These, with the cross roads which run from south to north intersecting them, extend to about 21 miles; making about 9 miles of turnpike, 6 miles of statute labour, and 6 miles of roads not upon the turnpike or statute labour lists.

*Topographical Appearances.*—There is a very marked difference between the south and north sides of the parish, which is intersected for almost its whole length, from east to west, by a ridge of high land, dividing it into two nearly equal parts. This ridge at several places, such as Carnbee Law, Kellie Law, Baldutho Craig, and Cunner Law, rises into hills, varying from 500 to 800 feet above the level of the sea, and commands a most extensive and beautiful view of the whole Firth of Forth, the Lothians, and greater part of the coast of Fife. Kellie Law is the highest point of this ridge, being about 810 feet above the level of the sea, and three miles distant from it. From its summit the view extends northward, comprehending St Andrews Bay, the Firth of Tay, and the greater part of the county of Angus, with the Grampians in the distance. It was one of the stations chosen by Captain Colby, when making the Trigonometrical Survey of Scotland; and he and his party of Engineers were encamped upon it for the six or eight weeks spent in taking their observations.

*Soil and Climate.*—The southern division of the parish, stretching from east to west, through its whole length, consists chiefly of a stiff clay soil upon a closely retentive subsoil, with an excellent exposure, and in a very high state of cultivation. The northern division is inferior as to soil, and still more so as to climate,—the elevation of a considerable part of it being nearly the same with the ridge already spoken of. At certain places, indeed, such as parts of Cassingray, Lingo, and Craigloon, the soil is excellent; but the elevation being considerable, the whole range is better adapted for pasturage than corn, and is in general so laid out.

*Hydrography.*—The parish is well supplied with springs of excellent water, and it is intersected by several small streams; those on the south side of the ridge finding their way by different courses into the Dreil, which runs into the sea at West Anstruther, while those on the north side join the Kenly, which runs eastward by Denino, and falls into St Andrews Bay.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—The geological construction of the parish and the character of the minerals correspond with the division above referred to,—sandstone prevailing in the south, and whinstone in the north. Coal is found at several places, and at present there are two collieries,—one at Kellie, and another at Cassingray. The Kellie consists of two main seams of cherry coal, distinguished among the workmen as the back and the fore,—the one being 7 feet thick, and the other 5 feet. The metals cut through in the engine pit are, 3 feet of clay, 9 feet of faiks, 12 feet of till mixed with faiks, 12 feet of gray faiks, 6 feet of white blaise or till, 12 feet of freestone pavement,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet of hard white sandstone, 6 feet of till with gray faiks, 6 feet of freestone, 5 feet of soft till or blaise,  $1\frac{1}{2}$  feet of hard stone mixed with lime, 5 feet of gray faiks,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet of pelt,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet of hard sandstone mixed with whinstone,  $18\frac{1}{2}$  feet of freestone pavement,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  feet of gray faiks, 3 feet of soft blue till,  $2\frac{1}{2}$  feet of limestone roof above the coal, 5 feet of cherry coal. The price of this coal at the pit is 1s. per load of four cwt. It is found at 21 fathoms, with a dip of 5 to 1 west by north. From 15 to 20 men are employed at the works.

The Cassingray coal consists of 6 regular seams, and 1 seam found occasionally 2 to 3 feet thick when it holds, and of excellent quality. The first regular seam is the marl coal, dipping to the south, 3 feet thick, and very near the surface. The second is a splint coal, about 14 inches thick, and found at from 7 to 8 fathoms. The third is also a splint coal, 3 feet 10 inches thick, of excellent quality, and found at 38 fathoms. The fourth is similar in quality, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet thick. The fifth is what is called the scarrot loft, and almost close to the black coal. The sixth, again, is a splint coal, 4 fathoms below the scarrot loft, 18 inches thick, and of the best quality. The dip of all these seams is as 1 in 6, but in different directions,—the coal on the north side of Cassingray dipping to the north-west, and that on the south dipping due south, while it is to be observed that the crops of both approach very near to each other, not far from the place where the pigeon house now stands. The metals cut through in the engine pit are 2 fathoms of clay, 15 fathoms of sandstone, 5 fathoms 2 feet of till or shale, 22 inches of limestone, 11 fathoms of sandstone, 4 feet of till, 15 inches of a black stone called pelt, and 7 inches of coarse parrot above the coal. The price of this coal at the pit is 1s. 2d. per load of four cwt. There are 38 col-



liers, 3 labourers, and 2 engine-men employed at the work, which has recently been let to an enterprising tenant.

Limestone of good quality is found in various places, and has been successfully wrought at Over Kellie, Baldutho, and Gibliston.

There are several excellent freestone quarries, one of them yielding good pavement. All these freestone quarries lie in the southern section of the parish,—the ridge formerly spoken of as running through the heart of the parish, consisting almost entirely of whinstone, and, with some few exceptions, such as at Cassingray, the whole northern section may be referred to the same formation.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Carnbee originally belonged to the Abbey of Dunfermline, and, when it was formed into a temporal lordship, the patronage went along with the teinds and other church property. The name of Melville, Laird of Carnbee, appears in public documents as early as 1466,—the property having been acquired by that family in the reign of Robert the Bruce, and remaining in it till it was sold by Sir James Melville in 1598. One of them was killed at the battle of Flodden field, and honourable mention is made of them both before and after the Reformation. Subsequently Sir James Galloway, created Lord Dunkeld by Charles II., held the lands and the patronage. Carnbee Place (as the old mansion-house was called, and which was only taken down in 1813), was long the residence of the family of Lord Dunkeld, whose names are often mentioned in the parish records. The third and last Lord Dunkeld joined Viscount Dundee at the battle of Killiecrankie, after which he was attainted, and died in the French service. The patronage has since passed into the family of Kellie, and is now, along with the lands, vested in that of Balcaskie.

*Eminent Men.*—The following is a list of distinguished persons connected with the parish: Sir Thomas Erskine, first Earl of Kellie, who bore a conspicuous part in suppressing the Gowrie conspiracy; Dr George Sibbald of Gibliston, uncle of Sir Robert Sibbald, the historian of Fife, and a very celebrated physician; Sir William Bruce, the celebrated architect; Thomas the sixth, or more generally known as the musical Earl of Kellie; the eccentric Hugo Arnot of Balcormo, the author of “State Trials,” an “Essay upon Nothing,” and other works; Archibald Constable, the celebrated bookseller; and if talent and success in mercantile affairs, joined to personal worth and a long series of benefits conferred upon the parish, should place any one in the list of distinguished persons who have been connected with it, may be men-

tioned Joseph Pitcairn, Esq., son of the Rev. Joseph Pitcairn, minister of Carnbee, who, for twenty-five years, sent an annual donation of L.15, and, at his death in June last, bequeathed the sum of 1000 dollars to the kirk-session for the relief of the poor of his native parish.

*Land-owners, &c.*—The rent for which the parish was assessed in 1815 was L. 11,502. And the following is a list of the present landed proprietors, with the valued rent of their estates.

James Maitland Hog, Esq. of Kellie,	L. 2042	16	6
Sir Ralph A. Anstruther of Balcaskie, Carnbee, &c.	1783	15	1
George Simson, Esq. of Pitcorthie, &c.	1327	0	0
Sir Henry Bethune of Bellistoun and Cassingmy,	960	7	2
Lord William R. K. Douglas of Balhoushie, Falside, &c.	806	0	0
Robert G. Smyth, Esq. of Gibliston.	702	8	10
Lieutenant-Colonel John Briggs of Over Carnbee,	427	1	3
Lieutenant-General Graham Stirling of Balmouth,	377	6	3
Hugo Arnot, Esq. of Balcormo,	369	0	0
Robert Briggs, Esq. of Gordonshall,	325	0	0
John Dalyell, Esq. of Lingo,	295	6	8
The Right Hon. Lord Mar of Kellie Castle,	262	6	8
Joseph Tosh, Esq. of Mortonshall and Kellieside,	173	3	4
Mrs Mouat of Craigloon,	164	0	0
New College of St Andrews for Langside,	86	0	0
Schoolmaster of Carnbee,	36	0	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 10,202	8	5

### III.—POPULATION.

The population of Carnbee has decreased considerably. In 1752 it was 1290. At the date of the last Statistical Account it was 1041; in 1811, 1098; in 1821, 1048; in 1831, 1079; and in 1841, 1043. The decrease since 1752 is to be ascribed to the change in the system of farming.

The average number of communicants is 375; of baptisms, 28; of marriages, 5; and of deaths, 13.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The parish is strictly agricultural. It is at present divided into 32 farms, the largest of which is 390 Scots acres, and the smallest about 40, the average being about 150. The system of management is that generally pursued on the stiff clay lands of this part of Fife, as already described in the reports of parishes similarly situated, and it is therefore unnecessary to give a detailed account of it. The same remark will apply to the produce, rates of wages, and the general expense of farm operations. The rent ranges from L. 1, 8s. to L. 3, 2s. per Scotch acre. Furrow-draining is going on vigorously, and cannot fail to effect a most decided improvement on a soil such as that of which the parish chiefly consists. Almost the whole of it has been limed.



## V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

The east end of the parish is within two miles of Anstruther, a sea-port, corn-market, and post-town. Pittenweem, also a sea-port and post-town, is within two and a-half miles of the church; and Colinsburgh, a corn-market and post-town, is within a mile of the west side of the parish. The church and manse are about eight miles distant from St Andrews. The produce is shipped chiefly at Anstruther, but also at Pittenweem and Elie. There are two corn mills and one lint mill in the parish.

The church is not central, being near the eastern extremity of the parish. It was built in 1793, and is large and commodious, containing accommodation for about 500. The chapel at Largo Ward affords accommodation to the inhabitants of the north-west part of the parish.

The manse and offices were built in 1820, and are in all respects substantial and commodious. The glebe is about 15 Scots acres. It is valued at L. 30 per annum. The stipend is 16 chalders, with L. 8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements. The teinds of the parish amount to 37 chalders.

There has not hitherto been any dissenting meeting-house in the parish, the few Dissenters who reside within the bounds attending the Relief chapel at Pittenweem, or the Burgher chapel at Largo Ward. A Free Church meeting-house is at present erecting at Arncroach, but it would be premature to pass any opinion as to the support which it will receive from the parishioners.

It has already been stated, that Mr David Wemyss represented the kirk of Carnbee in the first General Assembly. In the same Assembly he is also mentioned among such as were thought best qualified for the preaching of the word, and ministering of the sacraments at St Andrews, and he was afterwards settled there.

## List of Ministers of Carnbee since the Reformation :

Mr David Spens, from 1567 to 1575	Mr John Falconer, from 1683 to 1689
Mr Thomas Wood, ... 1576 to 1578	Mr Henry Rymore, ... 1690 to 1694
Mr William Laing, ... 1579 to 1583	Mr R. Fairweather, ... 1693 to 1701
Mr Andrew Hunter, ... 1582 to 158-	Mr Hugh Kemp, ... 1704 to 1718
Mr David Mernes, ... 1589 to 1638	Mr Wm. Dalgliesh, ... 1719 to 1739
Mr John Mernes, ... 1639 to 1642	Mr Joseph Pitcairn, ... 1742 to 1780
Mr Henry Rymore, ... 1644 to 166-	Mr Alexander Brodie, ... 1781 to 1804
Mr Andrew Bruce, ... 1664 to 1677	Mr Joseph Taylor, ... 1805 to 1815
Mr James Garden, ... 1678 to 1681	Mr Anstruther Taylor, 1816*
Mr Alexander Lundie, ... 1681 to 1683	

\* The above list I received from the Rev. H. Scott of West Anstruther, who with great labour has made up similar lists for most of the parishes in Scotland. His collection, if completed and printed, would form a curious document, and is worthy of the attention of some of our book societies.

*Education.*—There is one parochial, one private, and one female school. The salary of the parochial teacher is the maximum, with house and garden, and, in addition to this, he has a portion of land at Over Kellie, yielding a rent of L.20. The number of scholars may be stated at 70. The teacher of the female school has a salary of L.10, and a free house and school room, together with the school fees. The number of scholars, 35. The teacher of the private school depends altogether upon the school fees, which are inadequate for his support. There is also a Sabbath school.

*Registers.*—The earliest of the registers extant is of date 1650. They have been well kept.

*Poor's Funds.*—The only property vested in the kirk-session for the relief of the poor is L.320, L.100 of which was bequeathed to them by the Rev. Mr Thomson. A legacy of 1000 dollars has, within the last few months, been left to them by the late Joseph Pitcairn, Esq. of New York, for the same purpose. The interest of the above sum, the collections at the church doors, parish dues, and a voluntary contribution from the heritors, has hitherto been sufficient to relieve the wants of the ordinary and occasional poor, as will be seen by the following statement :

Statement of Receipts and Expenditure on an average of seven years.

By collections at the church doors, . . . . .	L.17	17	2
... voluntary contribution by the heritors, . . . . .	35	0	0
... interest of money, . . . . .	12	16	0
... mortcloth dues, . . . . .	1	19	8
	<hr/>		
	L.67	12	10
In addition to this must be stated a donation yearly received from Mr Pitcairn, . . . . .	{ 15 0 0		
And proceeds of a clothing club, of which the poor receive the full benefit, . . . . .	{ 13 0 0		
	<hr/>		
	L.95	12	10
To amount of allowances to 14 ordinary poor, . . . . .	L.48	8	11
extra allowances to do. and to 13 occasional } . . . . .	30	7	6
poor, in money, meal, clothes, and coals, . . . . .	13	6	2
To amount of session clerk and other salaries, . . . . .	<hr/>		
		92	2 7
	<hr/>		
	L.3	10	3
	<hr/>		

The highest allowance is 1s. 2d. per month, and the lowest 4d.—the allowance being paid on the first Monday of the month.

In conclusion, it may be observed that the progress of agricultural improvement has been very great since the date of the last Statistical Account. Judging from the details there given, the



produce of all kinds of corn must be at least four times greater, while the number of cattle reared and fattened is so much greater as scarcely to admit of a comparison. A great change has also taken place in the houses of all classes within the bounds of the parish, and perhaps a still greater in the farm-steadings. These are all of the best description, two of them having thrashing-mills driven by steam, six by water, and twenty-three by horses.

*December 1844.*

## PARISH OF FALKLAND.

PRESBYTERY OF CUPAR, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. A. WILSON, MINISTER.

### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE present parish of Falkland embraces what was formerly Kilgour and Falkland. The former name, like many in the neighbourhood, is of Celtic origin: *Ceil-gor*, “the Pleasant Church;” the Lomond,\* or *Lois-monadh*, “the Hill Fortress.” The name Falkland, however, or Faukland, as it often occurs in old charters, is considered of Gothic or Teutonic origin, from *Falk*, “a species of hawk,” referring to the once favourite amusement of *hawking*. As a royal residence, indeed, Falkland seems to have been chiefly chosen with a view to the pleasures of the chase. Even after the union of the Crown of Scotland with that of England, both King James I. and Charles I. enjoyed that pastime in the wood or park of Falkland. This name, at first successively given to the manor, castle, and palace is now extended to the town and parish.

*Boundaries and Extent.*—The parish of Falkland is bounded on the north by Auchtermuchty; on the east, by Kettle and Markinch; on the south, by Leslie; and on the west, by Port-

\* The Lomond, according to Jamieson, is derived from the Welsh dialect of the Celtic, from *Llo*, “what is raised or ejected,” and *mwnt*, “a mound or mount.” Falkland, as it stands in the charter of Malcolm IV., is *Falecklen*, which might also be referred to the Celtic, as if *Fal-aighe-leana*, “the Chieftain or King’s Hind-meadow.”

moak and Strathmiglo. The greatest length of the parish is about 6 miles, and the greatest breadth 4.

*Geology.*—This forms an extremely interesting portion of the statistics of the parish. The structure of the Lomonds exhibits, in a condensed outline, the geognosy of the entire district; while their isolated and elevated position renders the various strata a subject of comparatively easy investigation. The builder, and agriculturist, and miner have been long acquainted with their rich mineral stores; nor did the cupidity of the miner, in a former age, want materials on which to exert itself. A very brief sketch can only here be given.

*The old red sandstone* skirts the northern boundary of the parish, and constitutes the lowest of the sedimentary deposits. The best sections of this rock are seen near to Strathmiglo, where it is of great thickness, and is much prized for building material. Some of the beds are extremely fine and close-grained; others assume a brecciated or conglomerated character. It abounds in organic remains, chiefly belonging to the genus *Holoptychius*. There are also innumerable spherical spots, of a whitish colour, diffused throughout the mass. This rock dips generally to the south-east, at an angle of  $10^{\circ}$ ,—the outcrop of the beds rising towards the Ochils.

Resting upon the old red, beds of *yellow sandstone* next occur, which are likewise of great thickness, and contain organic remains similar to the former. The two deposits are conformable in their dip and inclination. On the farm of Lappa, their junction is exposed in a rivulet which issues from Glenvale,—a deep ravine intersecting the Lomond ridge towards the western extremity of the parish. The lower beds are of various colours,—red, brown, blue, white, and yellow alternating with each other; and the whole intermixed with thin bands of clay, containing nodules of limestone. The yellow sandstone, as well as the old red on which it rests, traverses the valley of Stratheden, passes through the shires of Kinross and Clackmannan, and has lately become the subject of much geological interest and speculation. Next to Dura Den, towards the eastern extremity of the county, the parish of Falkland contains some of its finest sections.

The two rocks now described constitute the base of the Lomond ridge. The superincumbent materials all belong to the under coal formation, and consist of the usual beds of sandstone, shale, ironstone, coal, and limestone. The lower beds of sandstone are



of a whitish colour, of a fine hard texture, and are from 500 to 600 feet thick. There are three thin beds of coal, which are little sought after, of inferior quality, and do not pay the expense of working. They vary from a few inches to about a foot and a half in thickness. The limestone consists of two main beds about ten feet thick, is highly crystalline in its structure, and of various shades of grayish-white. The *blae*, as it is termed by the workmen, is very hard, is blasted with gunpowder, and abounds, as well as the lime, in corals, madrepores, encrinites, and shells. The limestone has a slight inclination to the south-east, and dips under the western peak, which rises above it to the height of 500 feet. The peak consists of amygdaloidal greenstone, passing towards the summit into a grayish-black basalt; and underneath the limestone there is a dark crystalline greenstone, probably 100 feet thick, which splits up into tabular masses, and presents a bold mural cliff towards the northern face of the hill. The table-land which stretches to the East Lomond exhibits, in various places, the protrusion of the ignigenous rock through the sedimentary strata, which are, in consequence, a good deal altered and disturbed. The limestone passes round the cone of the hill at an elevation above the level of the sea of nearly 1200 feet. This is the highest point where fossil organic remains appear in Fifeshire; there is no soil or covering upon the limestone in many places; and yet on the upper surface of a bed of *blae*, of a few inches thick, shells are found of forms the most perfect and beautiful, uninjured, and almost uninfluenced by their long exposure to atmospheric agencies. The limestone trains round the south-eastern acclivity, and, after several shifts, crops out near Leslie; whence we lose all trace of it, until it again emerges near the bottom of the valley at Fothar.

Boulders of greenstone, granite, and gneiss, (and other primitive rocks,) are strewed over the high mainland, as well as sloping sides of the Lomond ridge. Some of them are of great dimensions, and upwards of twenty tons weight. The greenstone boulders are not much rounded, and have obviously not been transported far from their parent mass.

A vein of galena occurs on the south side of the Easter Lomond. It was discovered and wrought about the year 1783, and is described in the notices of the period as rich in silver ore. But it has little claim, we believe, to be regarded as *argentiferous*. Its line of bearing is nearly north-east by south-west. It intersects

the limestone noticed above, and penetrates the hill at the farmhouse of Hanging Myre. The mine seems to have been carried to a considerable extent; but no records appear to have been kept or can now be found of the results of the operations. Two similar veins occur in the county, in the parishes of Kembach and Inverkeithing, situated among the same series of rocks, and having the same general line of bearing. The ore in all of them is partly massive, and partly in very regular hexahedral crystals.

*Zoology and Botany.*—The wood of Falkland, which was once the resort of the fallow deer (*Cervus dama*), and the hunting-place of kings, has long ago had no other existence than in the archives of the past. This wood, which chiefly consisted of oak, was, even during the regency of the Queen-Mother of the unfortunate Mary, in a state of decay;\* and, about a century after, Cromwell cut down of it what suited his purpose for erecting a citadel at Perth. The fallow deer, as well as the ancient wood and forest, have disappeared; and the Lomonds are now only ranged by that elegant native species, the roebuck (*Cervus capriolus*.) Five of this species were killed this season on the Lomond hills.

Towards the summit of the East Lomond, which rises 1466 feet above the level of the sea, the *Vaccinium Vitis Idæa* (red whortleberry) grows plentifully, and bears ripe scarlet fruit abundantly. On the ruins of the palace, situated at the northern base of this hill, the *Cheiranthus cheiri* (wall-flower) grows as in a native climate; and the abundance with which it covers the rocky shores near Burntisland, may give it the undisputed claim of being here completely naturalized, if not native.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Falkland has obtained great celebrity, from having been in former times one of the favourite residences of the Scottish monarchs. The first mention made of it in history, is in the book of the Priory of St Andrews. Sibbald, quoting from this book, states, that in the fifth year of the reign of David I., Constantine, Earl of Fife, and Macbeth, *Thane of Falkland*, gathered together an army to prevent Robert de Burgoner from forcing the Culdees of St Andrews and Lochleven to give him the half of the lands of Kirkness, in which they succeeded.

\* In an act of Scott. Parl. A. D. 1555, the following finding occurs: "It was fundin be ane assyse, that the said wod of Falkland, for the maist part thairof, was auld, failzeit, and decayit, and meit to be cuttit downe for the comoun weill of the realme, and to be parkit, hanit, and keepit of new for polcie thairof."



Falkland afterwards became the property of the Crown; but, in the time of Malcolm IV., it fell into the possession of Duncan, the sixth Earl of Fife. Duncan married Ada, Malcolm's niece, and Falkland formed a part of her marriage dowry. It remained in the possession of this powerful family until the year 1371, when it passed into the hands of Robert Stewart, Earl of Monteith, afterwards Duke of Albany and Regent of Scotland. The Castle or Tower of Falkland is mentioned in an indenture between Isobel, Countess of Fife, and this celebrated statesman, whom she acknowledges as her heir. The said Earl, it is said, "shall have in his keeping the Castle of Falkland, with the forest of it, and a constable shall be placed there by him as he pleaseth, and the said Countess may stay within the tower when she pleaseth, and the whole village of Falkland, over against the said tower, shall be set in tack."

"Falkland," says Dr Jamieson, "had formerly a designation which, as far as I have observed, occurs in no other instance. Speaking of the forfeiture of the Earl of Fife, Sibbald says, 'It was before that called the Castle or *Mar* of Falkland, and was one of the seats of the Macduffs.' I have met with no word that seems to have any probable affinity, unless we should view it as softened in pronunciation from Welsh, *magwyr*, 'what is raised up, a structure, a wall, a building, a house.' " \*

Falkland first became the residence of the Court during the regency of Albany. Robert III., a feeble monarch, entrusted him with the entire administration of the kingdom, and hence *manerium nostrum de Fawkland*, as he termed it, became virtually the seat of Government.† But when the estates of Murdoch, the second Duke, were forfeited in 1424, Falkland reverted to the Crown.

While the old Castle or Mar of Falkland belonged to Albany, it became the scene of one of the most painful tragedies‡ in the history of Scotland. David, Duke of Rothesay, eldest son of Robert III., and heir apparent to the Throne, was thrown into one of its dungeons by his uncle, the Duke of Albany, where he was starved to death in 1402. The circumstances connected with this event, so characteristic of the cruel and barbarous man-

\* Brown's Views of the Royal Palaces of Scotland, page 30.

† Ten different charters yet remain, which are dated *Manerium nostri de Faulkland*, or simply Falkland, by Albany while *Gubernator* or Regent.

‡ In the Fair Maid of Perth, Sir Walter Scott has lent to this historical event all the embellishments of poetry and romance.

ners of the times, are differently related by the Scottish historians, and have led to much discussion; but the result of recent investigations has confirmed the popular account.\* The Regent was jealous of the talents of the young Prince. He beheld in him a dangerous rival, whose capacity for affairs and energetic character might prove fatal to his own power. These fears appear to have been well founded, for Rothesay, while yet a very young man, supplanted his uncle in the regency. The ambitious mind of Albany could not submit patiently to this humiliation, and the dissolute conduct of the unfortunate Prince soon allowed him an opportunity of gratifying his revenge. Rothesay was of a voluptuous disposition; he seems also to have been inconstant in his attachments, so that he gave just cause of offence to several families of rank, and created formidable enemies to himself among the nobility. These individuals supported Albany in his machinations against the Prince. The weak monarch, Robert III., was made to believe that the vicious excesses of his son were exciting popular discontent, and that it was expedient that he should be placed under temporary restraint. Rothesay was indignant at this insulting proposal, and attempted to make himself master of the Castle of St Andrews, and in that citadel defy his enemies. But in passing through Fife he was arrested by Lindsay of Rossy and a traitor of the name of Ramorgny, friends of Albany, by whom he was carried first to St Andrews and afterwards to Falkland. Here he was exposed to the most barbarous treatment. He was thrown into a miserable dungeon, under the charge of two ruffians, by whom he was starved to death. His life, however, was preserved for a few days by means so affecting and romantic, as to remind us of some of the incidents of Roman story. According to Boece, Buchanan, and others, his life was for some days feebly sustained by means of thin cakes pushed through a small crevice in the wall of his dungeon by a young woman, the daughter of the governor, whose heart was moved by the situation of the unhappy Prince. But being at last found out, she was put to death by her father, who regarded her noble conduct as an act of treason towards himself. Her cruel fate did not prevent another woman, employed in the family as a wet nurse, from supplying him with milk conveyed through a long reed from her own

\* Lord Hailes has published an original paper, throwing some light on the mysterious death of this Prince, which was communicated to him by Mr Astle, a gentleman to whom Scotland is indebted for many valuable illustrations of her history. Remarks on Hist. of Scot. p. 278.



breasts. She also fell a victim to her generous compassion, and the Prince perished miserably. Albany gave out that he died of a dysentery, but the people were convinced that he had been foully murdered. A public inquiry was made into the matter, but a jury, composed of the creatures of Albany, were sure to return a verdict of acquittal. Their report is a partial and constrained testimony to Albany's innocence, and after it was returned, any further rumours unfavourable to him or to his friends were forbidden by a public proclamation,—a circumstance which fully accounts for the silence of Winton\* and others upon the subject. The Prince was buried at the Abbey of Lindores, where the curious may still see the stone coffin in which, it is said, his remains were enclosed.

It is difficult to ascertain exactly the site of the Castle of Falkland. We are disposed to believe that it stood on the mound a little to the north of the present edifice. The palace was begun probably by James II., and completed by James V.† “The part now remaining consists of two distinct portions of building in different styles of architecture. The eastmost portion is two stories in height, and in the monastic style. On each floor there are six windows, square topped, and divided by mullions into two lights. Between the windows the front is supported by buttresses enriched with niches, in which statues (representing the Stewart family) were placed, the mutilated remains of which are still to be seen, and terminating in ornamental pinnacles, which rise considerably above the top of the wall. The western part of this front of the palace is in the castellated style, and of greater height than the other. It is ornamented with two round towers, between which is a lofty archway, which forms the entrance to the court-yard be-

\* Wynton says, O. C. vol. ii. p. 397, ed. Lond. 1795,  
Schir Davy, Duke of Rothesay,  
Of March the seyn and twenty'd day,  
Yauld his saule till his Creatoure,  
His cors til halowit sepulture.  
In Lundoris his body lyis,  
His spirite in-till Paradys.

Wynton does not mention the circumstances under which the Prince died, probably for the reason mentioned in the text.

† It is universally admitted that James V. made splendid additions to the palace, for his initials and the date 1537 appear upon the walls; but we cannot ascertain which of his predecessors began the structure. It appears, from a statement made by Beatoun of Creich, who had “the keeping of the palice of Falkland,” to the Scottish Parliament in 1525, that it had then fallen into disrepair,—being “riven, and the thak yrof brokin.” This circumstance shows that the palace, even at that period, was an old building. We suspect it was begun by James II., by whom a charter was granted at Falkland in the year 1446. Pinkerton says, (Vol. ii. p. 424,) James IV. improved or enlarged the Castle of Falkland, but he mentions no authority.

hind, and which in former times was secured by strong doors, and could be defended by the towers which flank it. James V. made great additions to the palace, and appears to have erected two ranges of buildings equal in size to that described on the east and north sides of the court-yard. As completed, therefore, by him, the palace occupied three sides of a square court, the fourth or western side being enclosed by a lofty wall. The range of building on the north side of the court has now entirely disappeared, and of that on the east the bare walls alone remain, these two portions of the palace having been accidentally destroyed by fire in the reign of Charles II." On the east wing the "façade between the windows is ornamented with finely proportioned Corinthian pillars, having rich capitals, and above the windows are medallions presenting a series of heads carved in high relief, some of which are beautifully executed, and would lead us to believe that more than native talent had been employed upon the work. On the top of the basement which supports the pillars, the initials of the King and of his Queen, Mary of Guise, are carved alternately."\*

Little is said of Falkland as a royal residence before the time of James V. That gay but unfortunate prince was kept in restraint at Falkland when a minor, by the Earl of Angus and the Douglasses. Angus left him there to enjoy the pleasures of the chase, and proceeded himself to the Lothians; while Sir Archibald Douglas went to Dundee, and Sir George to St Andrews, entrusting the young monarch to the charge of Douglas of Parkhead. James embraced the opportunity to escape out of their hands and assert his independence. That his purpose might not be suspected, he ordered preparations for a splendid hunt on the following day. The chase was to commence at seven in the morning, which James made the excuse for retiring early to bed, and Douglas, after setting the watch, followed his example. As soon as all was quiet in the palace, the prince, disguised as a groom, contrived to elude the vigilance of his guards; went to the stables and saddled a fleet horse, and then, accompanied by two trusty followers, galloped at full speed to Stirling Castle, which he reached by dawn of day. James, who was fond of hunting and hawking, often returned to Falkland afterwards, that he might enjoy his favourite amusements. In the following passage, taken from an old humorous ballad which the learned ascribe to the pen of

\* Swan's History of Fife, Vol. ii, p. 230.



this joyous prince, he celebrates the mirthful recreations of this royal retreat.

Was never in Scotland hard nor sene  
 Sic dansin nor deray,  
 Nowthir at *Falkland on the grene*,\*  
 Nor Pebillis at the Play,  
 As was of wowaris, as I wene,  
 At Chryst-kirk on ane day.†

James V. died at Falkland, in December 1542, shortly after the disastrous affair of Solway Moss. It is alleged that he died of a broken heart. After this battle, says Drummond of Hawthornden, he passed in a retired manner to Fife, and from Hallyards to Falkland, "where he gave himself over to sorrow. No man had access unto him, no, not his own domestics. Now are his thoughts busy with revenge, now with rage against his scornful nobility; long watchings, continual cares and passions, abstinence from food and recreation, had so extenuated his body, that, pierced with grief, anguish, impatience, and despair, he remained fixed to his bed, where he breathed his last, in the 33d year of his age and 32d of his reign."

Mary of Guise, the widow of James, resided occasionally at Falkland during her regency, surrounded by her French soldiers. It was here, in the year 1559, that she cited the Earl of Argyle, and James, prior of St Andrews, (afterwards the celebrated Regent,) to appear before her. Her daughter, the unhappy Mary, seems also to have been attached to this residence. She retired to it, on several occasions, to escape from the anxiety and turmoil of her distracted court, and enjoy, like her royal father, the pleasures of hunting and hawking. She was at Falkland in the month of September 1561, when Bothwell and the Hamiltons laid a plot to take away the life of her natural brother, the Earl of Murray, that the Queen might be completely in their power. Bothwell urged that the thing could easily be accomplished and the Queen surprised, because she was in the habit of resorting daily to a wood in the vicinity of Falkland; where stags were kept, and where she could be seized without any difficulty.‡

Falkland was also honoured frequently with a visit from that sage monarch James VI., who took great pleasure in buck hunting—a taste which could be amply indulged in the noble park

\* Pinkerton thinks *Falkland on the Greene* the title of an ancient ballad, written in the style of *Chryst-kirk*.

† *Chrystis kirk on the Grene*.

‡ Buchanan, *Hist. lib. xvii. c. 29*.

that lay around the palace. While he was enjoying this pastime, in the month of June 1592, a desperate attempt was made by the unprincipled Francis Earl of Bothwell and his associates to obtain possession of his person. "Bothwell understanding the King to be at quyetness in Falkland, be the secret advertisement of certayne courtiers, rade from the water of Esk to Falkland, accompanied by the Master of Gray and a goodly number of horsemen. But when they came to the palice, they found not sik reddeness as was supposit, bot be the contrare certayne people provydit to resist, sa that Bothwell was repulsit, and he, to his perpetual ignominie, fled away with shaymeful dreador; and before thay departit, thay spulyeit the King's stable, and reft many horses bayth out of the town of Falkland as also furth of the park."\*

A few years later (1600), James was exposed to another assault in the same place, for at Falkland the first scene was laid of that dark tragedy, known in Scottish history as the Gowrie conspiracy. An account of this painful affair was published at the time by royal authority. "His Majesty, having his residence at Falkland, and being daily at the buck hunting, (as his use is in that season), upon the 5th day of August 1600, raide out to the parke, between six and seven of the clocke in the morning, the weather being wonderfull pleasant and seasonable. But before his Majestie could leape on horseback, Maister Alexander Ruthven, second brother to the late Earle of Gowrie, being then lighted in the town of Falkland, hasted him faste down to overtake his Majestie before his onleaping, as he did," &c. He enticed James to Perth, and the result is well known.

After James succeeded to the crown of England, Falkland ceased to be a royal residence. Charles I. slept in the palace once or twice, and Charles II.\* also visited it; but after the departure of James, it ceased to become the scene of important events, and hastened to decay. Fairney of Fairney acquired the heritable offices of Forester of the Woods and Muirs of Falkland, the lands of Nuthill, &c. In 1604 Fairney sold these offices to Sir David Murray of Gospetrie, Lord Scone, for 4000 merks, and about the same time James VI. gave a grant to his Lordship of the offices of Constable of the Castle, Forester of the Forest, and Ranger of the Lomonds of Falkland, on account of his services at Perth, 5th August 1600. The estate then passed

\* The Hist. of King James the Sext.—Bannatyne Club Book. Edinburgh, 1823, p. 250.



into the family of Murray of Lochmaben, afterwards Earl of Annandale, and was sold in 1658 by James Lord Annandale to John Earl of Athole. His successor, the Duke of Athole, sold it to Skène of Hallyards, from whose family it passed to the late Mr Bruce. Mr Bruce, immediately after he acquired the property, began to repair the palace. He converted part of it into an elegant and commodious dwelling-house for the factor, and laid out the adjoining grounds as an ornamental garden, greatly to the embellishment of the ancient edifice. The same taste and liberality are exhibited in the preservation of this interesting ruin by the present proprietors, O. Tyndall Bruce, Esq. and his lady.

The only other building in the parish that deserves particular mention is the new House of Falkland. It is built after a design by Mr Burn of Edinburgh in the Elizabethan style of architecture. It was begun in 1839 and completed in 1844, and is justly regarded as one of the most beautiful and princely edifices in Scotland.

*Antiquities.*—Several coins have been found among the ruins of the palace. They are not very ancient, being principally coins of Charles I. and II.

There are several traces of ancient fortifications on the Lomond hills, which the late Colonel Miller, in a paper on the battle of Mons Grampius, has endeavoured to connect with the movements of the Roman and Caledonian armies. “The fortifications on the East Lomond hill,” he says, “have been perfected with great labour and very considerable skill, although the works are irregular. On the summit there are two works 150 yards in circumference. There have been four defences on the north side, the lower ditch of which is carried through the rock in one place. On the west side there is a ravelin which would not disgrace a modern engineer; and on the south side there is a ditch about 100 yards below the summit, and nearly 200 yards long, which has either been filled in at the east end or never finished. The remainder of it is about 6 feet deep, and the earth is thrown up in the inside to form a rampart, which is still in excellent preservation. Between the East and West Lomonds, and about half-way below their summits, the ground presents the appearance of a plain sloping gently towards the east, although very much broken. This I conceive to have been the position of the Caledonians previous to the battle.” Whether this opinion be well founded or

not, there can be no question that traces of ancient military works still remain upon these heights.

“Some think,” says Sibbald,\* “that the station or camp of the ninth legion was where the tower of Falkland stands now.” We are disposed to believe that this opinion is correct. On the estate of Nuthill, to the west of the town of Falkland, the remains of Roman entrenchments may still be traced.

While treating of the antiquities of the parish we may mention, that in *Slezer's Theatrum Scotiæ* (in folio), two large engravings of the palace are given, which represent it as it appeared about the year 1690. One of the views is taken from the north, and presents the interior court. In the east wing all the statues are entire, and there are two on each buttress,—one in the niche, and the other above the capital of the pillar.

The other view is an external one, taken from the east side of the town, where the Pleasance is now built. It represents the east wing of the palace as much more entire than it appears at present. The east port of the town or arched gateway is described as it then existed. It stood at the south-east angle of the palace, having a porter's lodge upon the north side, where the garden wall now runs. In this engraving we are also favoured with a view of the old homely town house, with its diminutive spire.

*Eminent Men.*—Among the eminent men connected with Falkland must be classed David, first Viscount of Stormont, the ancestor of the Earls of Mansfield. He built the present church, and his armorial bearings, as well as those of his lady, Elizabeth, daughter of David Beatoun of Creich, are beautifully carved in oak on the front of the gallery in the north aisle. The Beatouns of Creich were the original keepers of the palace, and therefore it is highly probable that Viscount Stormont's connection with that family might partly be the cause of his obtaining the office. His original designation was David Murray of Gospetrie. He was knighted and appointed comptroller of the household in 1599. In the events connected with the Gowrie conspiracy the year following, he rendered the king important service, and James seems to have been grateful; for Sir David received charters of the barony of Segy in Kinross, and of the castle stead of Falkland, with the office of Ranger of the Lomonds and Forester of the Woods in 1601, and of Glendovich, Balinblae, and Nuthill in 1602. Three years afterwards he was created Lord Scone. Murray was a great

\* His Life, p. 71.



favourite with his royal master. He was a man of a bold and resolute character, and therefore an admirable hand, in that fierce and stormy age, for executing the purpose, which James so ardently cherished, of introducing Episcopacy. It was chiefly through his influence that the famous Articles of Perth were carried through the Parliament of Scotland. He hastened to Court with the pleasing intelligence, and James testified his gratitude for this service by creating him (16th August 1621) Viscount Stormont. He died in 1631, and was buried at Scone, where a magnificent monument was erected to his memory.

With the ancient history of this interesting parish the name of Sir David Lindsay of the Mount is associated. This distinguished poet and courtier, whose works about a century ago were as much read by the people of Scotland as the Waverley novels are in our own age, seems to have spent some happy days in Falkland. In "the second epistle of the Papingo, directed to her brethren of Court," he apostrophizes Stirling, Linlithgow, and Falkland, in the following strain:—

"Adieu fair *Snowdown*, with thy towers hie,  
The chapel royal, park, and table round;  
May, June, and July, would I dwell in thee,  
Were I a man might hear the birds sound,  
Which doth against the Royal rock resound.  
Adieu *Lithgow*, who, palace of pleasance,  
Might be a pattern in Portugal or France.  
Farewell *Falkland*, the fortress sure of Fife,  
Thy polite park under the Lowmond Law.  
Some time in thee I led a lusty life,  
Thy fallow-deer to see them raik on raw,  
Court-men to come to thee they stand great awe,  
Saying, thy burgh been of all boroughs bail,  
Because in thee they never got good ale."

Falkland is the birth-place of Richard Cameron, the founder of the sect of the Cameronians, who distinguished himself by his resistance to the criminal attempt of Charles II. to introduce Episcopacy by violence into Scotland. In his youth, he was himself an Episcopalian, and acted as parish schoolmaster and precentor to the curate. A radical change took place in his views, however, and he connected himself with the indulged Presbyterians. He subsequently joined the party who refused the indulgence. He was undoubtedly a man of extreme views, but this circumstance should not induce us to forget the important services which he and his party have rendered to the cause of civil and religious liberty. He was killed at Airs Moss in 1680, in a skirmish with the King's troops. His head was carried in savage triumph

to Edinburgh on a pike, and his body interred in the place where he fell.

Falkland affords a title to the English family of Carey. Sir Henry Carey of Berkhamstead, Hertfordshire, was created a peer of Scotland by the style and title of Viscount Falkland, 10th November 1620. He was the individual who brought to James the earliest tidings of Elizabeth's death.

The residence of James VI. in Falkland did not induce the people of the town to embrace his views on church government; for in 1673 Mr Robert Gillespie, a preacher among the Covenanters, was brought before the Council for having kept a conventicle in the town of Falkland. Gillespie refused to mention the names of his audience, and for this offence he was carried to the Bass Rock (then the chief state prison in Scotland,) and subjected to a long confinement. About the same period Mr Donald Cargill, who "suffered" at Edinburgh in 1681, preached one Sunday on the Lomond Hills, and baptized a great many children. Both he and Gillespie, although their initials are only given, are mentioned in the "*Memoirs of Emilia Geddie*," a native of Falkland. The subject of this curious and scarce old tract was born about the year 1665. She was interred in the present burial ground, in the east wall of which a monument was erected to her memory.

Among the individuals connected in more recent times with the parish, who have risen to some degree of eminence, mention should be made of Dr Doig, so long the rector of the Grammar School of Stirling. He was at one time parish schoolmaster of Falkland. He was much esteemed by his contemporaries for his learning. He published several Latin and English poems, and left behind him in manuscript an immense variety of literary, historical, and philological treatises.

The late Sergeant Spankie, a distinguished member of the English Bar, was a native of Falkland. His father was the minister of the parish.\*

*Proprietors.*—There are sixteen proprietors of land of the yearly value of L.50 and upwards. The chief proprietors are, O. Tyn-dall Bruce, Esq. of Falkland; William Johnston, Esq. of Lath-

\* Perhaps it will interest the poetical antiquary to know, that "Jenny Nettles" hanged herself upon a tree in the wood of Falkland. She was buried on the Nuthill estate under "a cairn" of stones, where her bones were recently discovered.



risk; John Balfour, Esq. of Balbirnie; Mrs Jamieson of Drums; Captain Aytoun of Purin; Geo. Wm. Hope, Esq. of Rankeillour.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1801,	2211
1811,	2317
1821,	2459
1831,	2658
1841,	2885

The number of persons that live in towns or villages is perhaps 2250,—the remainder of course live in the country.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

#### *Agriculture.*—

Number of acres in the parish either cultivated or occasionally in tillage,	8000
occasionally waste,	2000
that might be cultivated with a profitable outlay of capital, about	1000
in undivided common,	10
under wood,	400

In no parish in Fife has agriculture made greater advances within the last twenty-five years, than in Falkland. The face of the country has entirely changed, and places comparatively waste have been converted into large and beautiful farms. The present valuable and extensive farm of Falklandwood was then a marsh. The proprietors of Falkland have been the chief authors of these improvements. Twenty-five years ago, the large estates in the parish, of which Mr Tyndall Bruce is now the proprietor, had been long in the market, and therefore no attempt had been made to develop their resources by a great outlay of capital. When the late Mr Bruce, however, came into the possession of the estates, he granted improving leases of twenty-one years' duration; built farmsteadings upon an extensive and liberal scale; constructed roads; and assisted the tenantry in liming, draining, and making enclosures. While these important changes were proceeding on the low lands, the Lomond Hills, a large common of 2000 acres, were divided amongst the towns-people and heritors. While undivided, no improvement could be made upon them, so that they remained from one generation to another without plantation or enclosures. But immediately upon the division taking place, the large heritors, Mr Bruce of Falkland, Mr Johnstone of Lathrisk, and Mr Balfour of Balbirnie, proceeded to subdivide their respective portions, which had the effect of greatly improving the appearance of the country and raising the value of the land. To give some idea of the improvements made by Mr Bruce upon se-

veral hundred acres, it is only necessary to mention, that, after tearing up the natural soil, taking one crop of oats off it, liming and draining it the following year, taking another crop of oats off it, and then laying it down in grass, the annual value of the land rose from something merely nominal to a grass rental, in some instances, of L.2 per Scotch acre. The money expended upon these improvements has been highly beneficial to the labouring population. It may further be remarked, that the division of the commonty has been also advantageous so far as the moral character of the people is concerned. Formerly, many individuals, nicknamed "scrapies," kept horses and cattle in the town, and, if fame may be believed, supported them by pilfering freely from their neighbours, but when questioned how they supported their cattle, the ready answer was, "O! by sending them to the hill." With the division of the commonty, however, that dishonest generation passed away, and no reproach of this nature can fairly be brought against the present quiet and industrious community.

It has already been mentioned that extensive plantations have been formed in this parish during the last twenty-five years. Every kind of soft and hard wood has been planted, and the trees in general are in a very thriving condition. But the larches have suffered severely from that unaccountable disease which has attacked them in all parts of the country.

*Husbandry.*—Husbandry in all its branches is conducted upon the most scientific principles. The cultivation of turnips is pursued to a very great extent, in which guano and the other artificial manures are largely employed. The turnips are consumed partly by cattle and partly by sheep,—which the farmers buy extensively at Melrose and other south country fairs. The breeding of cattle is also much attended to,—a considerable number being reared on each farm. Until very lately, the farmers endeavoured to keep by the Fife breed; but pure specimens of this breed being now comparatively rare, a crossing with the short-horned breed has of late years become very general.

*Wages.*—The rate of wages is for an able-bodied labourer 9s. a week in summer, and 8s. in winter. For women, 4s. a week. For wrights, smiths, and masons, from 12s. to 15s., and for weavers from 7s. to 8s.

*Rent.*—The valued rent of the parish is L.5824 Scots. The annual value of real property, for which it was assessed in 1815, was L.8144 Sterling. From the agricultural improvements that



have been made, during the last twenty-five years, the value of real property must have considerably increased. The average rent of arable land per acre is L.1, 12s. 6d., of pasture land, 7s. 6d.

*Manufactures.*—A great part of the population of the parish are engaged in hand-loom weaving. There are no manufacturers carrying on business, on their own account, in the town of Falkland; but one individual manufactures dowlas and sheeting in Newton of Falkland, and six manufacture window-blinds in the village of Freuchie. The weavers are principally employed by manufacturers in the neighbouring towns of Newburgh, Kettle, and Kirkcaldy.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Seven markets for horses and cattle are held in Falkland during the year, four of which are mentioned in the charter of the burgh. The Lammas market was formerly one of the most extensive in Scotland, but it has greatly declined. The other markets have also fallen away, except the one held in November, immediately before Hallow Fair, which is steadily improving. These markets were held at one time upon the Lomond Hills, but of late years they have been held alternately in the streets of Falkland, and in a small commonity adjoining the town. We cannot but consider these markets as injurious to the morals of the people. They lead to much intemperance. There is no market for grain in the town; it is sold either to the dealers in the surrounding villages, or at the market in Kirkcaldy, twelve miles distant.

*Villages.*—Besides the ancient royal burgh of Falkland, there are two villages in the parish, Newton of Falkland and Freuchie. None of these villages are built upon any regular plan. Narrow dirty streets cross each other in every direction, and the primitive, but most odious custom of making dunghills in front of the houses, is still maintained. Freuchie and Newton of Falkland are inhabited principally by feuars engaged in hand-loom weaving.

Falkland was erected into a royal burgh by James II. in 1458. The preamble to the charter of creation states, as reasons for granting it, the frequent residence of the royal family at the manor of Falkland, and the damage and inconvenience sustained by the many prelates, peers, barons, nobles, and others of their subjects who came to their country-seat, for want of victuallers and innkeepers. This charter was renewed by James VI. in 1595. The corporation consists of three bailies, fifteen councillors, and

a clerk\*—a number greatly disproportioned to the present size and importance of the burgh. The corporation possessed at one time a very considerable extent of property, but by mismanagement and law-suits, it has dwindled down to very narrow dimensions. The revenue in 1844 amounted to L.56, 2s. 5½d., the expenditure to L.79, 15s. 3d., the debt to L.323, 5s. 7d.

Falkland still bears some faint traces of its former greatness,—among other things, in the names of its streets, one of which is called “Parliament Square,” another “College Close,” and a third, the “West Port.” Some of the houses which belonged to officers of the household in the time of James VI. still remain.

The town is exceedingly healthy. Its site at the foot of the East Lomonds is airy, and the people enjoy an inexhaustible supply of the purest spring water, brought into the town in pipes from the neighbouring hill. This was effected by the town-council in 1766, at an expense of L.400. The town, however, does not appear to have been healthy in former times, for it is mentioned in an old record, that the followers of the Court, when residing in Falkland, sent their children to be educated in Cupar, on account of the greater salubrity of the place. The fertile plain to the east of Falkland was then marshy, so much so, that when James VI., in 1611, issued a mandate, enjoining the presbytery to hold their meetings at Falkland instead of Cupar, they refused to comply, on the ground that Falkland could not be approached in winter, nor after heavy rains in summer. But the marshes have been drained long ago, and the air, ever fresh from the Lomond Hills, is so healthy, that the inhabitants are somewhat remarkable for longevity.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church stood originally at Kilgour, in the western confines of the parish, and before the Reformation belonged to the Priory of St Andrews. The Earl of Fife made a grant of it to the priory in 1318. The deed of mortification, as well as another curious old charter, bearing date 1224, which throws light upon the ecclesiastical state of the parish at that early period, may be seen in the book of the Priory of St Andrews, lately published at the expense of Mr Bruce.

It is difficult to ascertain when the church was removed to Falk-

\* It would appear that Falkland could formerly boast of a provost, for, says Pitscotie, (Hist. 1814, p. 535,) “Patrick Learmonth, provost of Falkland, came with ane guidlie companie of fyve hundereth horsemen to the congregation to meet the queen at Falkland.”



land. There is a stone in the present structure, bearing the date 1620,\* but there is reason to believe that there was a more ancient edifice upon the same site. The present church can boast of no architectural beauty. It was repaired about the year 1772, but internally it is again in a state of great dilapidation. It has a damp earthen floor, and many of the seats are decayed : altogether it reflects little credit upon the parish. It is seated for about 700 or 800 people. The front of the gallery in the north aisle, belonging to Mr Bruce, is beautifully carved in oak. It bears the arms of Viscount Stormont, (captain of the guards in the time of James VI.) by whom the church was erected.

*Manse.*—There never was a manse at Falkland until 1807 ; for when the original manse at Kilgour fell into decay, the minister, by a private bargain between him and the titular of the teinds, obtained in lieu of a manse and glebe, one chalder of bear, amounting in value to L.80 Scotch, L.6, 13s. 4d. Sterling, and more recently he was accommodated with a few apartments in the ruins of the palace. This state of matters continued till 1806, when the above compact was declared illegal by the Court of Session. The heritors then bought half an acre of ground about a quarter of a mile to the east of the town, on the northern slope of the East Lomond Hill, for the site of a manse and a garden. The manse was erected here in 1807, in a neat substantial manner, though its interior plan might have been more conveniently arranged. The ground on which the manse is erected was anciently part of the property of the Order of the Knights Templars ; and a copious spring of excellent water at the manse is still named St John's Well, and the adjoining property to the west is styled St Mary's Chapel Yard ; and beside it is another strong spring of excellent water, called the ' Lady Well,' (in honour of the Virgin Mary,) which was conveyed in pipes to the town of Falkland, in the year 1766.

*Glebe.*—The glebe is still where it originally was, near the site of the ancient parish kirk of Kilgour, about two miles west of the

\* That eminent antiquary, the Rev. Mr Rowand, has mentioned two very weighty reasons for concluding that there was a church in the town of Falkland, before the erection of the present edifice by Viscount Stormont in 1620. In the first place, two buttresses, which have evidently belonged to a more ancient ecclesiastical building, are left standing to support the front wall of the present church. In the second place, it is mentioned in the life of Mr Patrick Simson, (the Scots Worthies, edit. 1817. p. 83,) " that in 1608, when the bishops and some commissioners of the General Assembly convened in the palace of Falkland, the ministers assembled in the *kirk of the town*, and chose him for their moderator."

town. As there has been no excambion yet made it is very inconveniently situated; but an excambion will, in all likelihood, take place in a few months, so that the glebe will lie immediately behind the manse. The present glebe consists of four acres of good land, for which the incumbent receives L. 14 of yearly rent. Formerly the minister of Falkland enjoyed a right of pasturage upon the Lomond hills for threescore of sheep, but when the commonty was divided, this right was lost, we know not upon what ground.

*Cemetery.*—The ancient burial ground was at Kilgour. The church, which seems to have been a small building, 40 feet by 16, stood in the centre, having a quire at its east end. Not a single vestige of it is now visible, the foundations having been dug up about twenty years ago, and removed to fill up drains on the neighbouring farm. The farmer transported one of the ancient stone coffins into his stable-yard to form a water trough for his cattle, where it still remains, and then crowned this sacrilegious act by ploughing the churchyard! The present burial ground was probably first used for the purpose of interment about the year 1670, as the earliest date upon the tombstones is 1674. But the old cemetery of Kilgour was also used, up to the beginning of the present century, if not later.

There are three dissenting places of worship in the parish; two in Falkland and one in Freuchie. The number of Dissenters, however, is not large, the two congregations in Falkland being very small. The great body of the people adhere to the Established Church. The stipend consists of 8 chalders of barley, 8 of oats, and 1 of bear, valued by the Fife fiars. The sum of L. 8, 6s. 8d. is allowed for communion elements.

*Education.*—The number of schools in the parish is five; of scholars attending them 350. The parochial teacher's salary is the maximum, and his fees may be about L. 50 per annum. He has an allowance of L. 10 a year for house and garden. There is an excellent subscription school in Freuchie, which confers an immense benefit upon the village. The means of education are put within the reach of every inhabitant of the parish, but still it is doubtful if the people are in general better educated than they were forty years ago. The children of both sexes are taken away from school at such an early age, to engage in hand-loom weaving, that sufficient time is not allowed to complete their education. They forget much of what they have learned in early youth,



before they arrive at years of maturity. Unfortunately there is no public library in the parish, but steps are now taking to supply this grievous defect, and place a sound literature in the hands of the people. A Sunday school library, which is extensively used both by old and young, has been established during the last year, and it already contains many standard works upon practical divinity.

*Poor.*—The average number of people receiving parochial aid is 34. Besides the regular paupers, 30 or 40 persons in straitened circumstances sometimes receive a little aid from the kirk-session. The whole expenditure for the poor of the parish, which contains nearly 3000 people, is, for the last year, L. 143. The weekly allowances run from 6d. to 2s. 9d.: 1s. is about the average. The bulk of the paupers are above sixty years of age. There cannot be a doubt that a reluctance to apply for parochial aid is disappearing, but, at the same time, it is feared that an excessive desire to foster a spirit of self-dependence among the poor, has, in this as in other parishes, led to a stinted allowance in many cases of real distress. The first voluntary assessment for the aid of the poor was made in 1800, and the system has been continued up to the present time; but as some of the heritors have refused to pay their proportion for the last year, the system of legal assessment will, in all probability, be immediately introduced. A yearly sum of L. 40 or L. 50 is derived from mortifications, sessional dues, mortcloth, &c., while the collections at the church doors may upon an average amount to L. 20 a year. It is proper to mention that liberal donations are made to the poor by Mr and Mrs Bruce of Falkland.

*Inns.*—In the parish there are fourteen licensed houses for the sale of ardent spirits. We are afraid that stringent police regulations are necessary to keep some of them in proper order. The practice of granting such licenses to so many houses in a parish of this size is highly censurable.

*Fuel.*—There is a great abundance of coal in the neighbourhood. It is brought in carts from the adjoining parish of Markinch, and also in considerable quantities from Lochgelly. The Balbirnie and Lochgelly coals are of excellent quality, and if we include the carriage, cost 9s. or 10s. a ton.

*February 1845.*

## PARISH OF CRAIL.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

WILLIAM MERSON, A. M., MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—IN the former Statistical Account, the name of this parish is supposed to point out, in the Gaelic language, its situation upon a small winding or bending of the shore. But, as in old times it was written *Carrail* or *Carayle*, afterwards contracted into *Craill* or *Cryle*, and in Latin it is called *Oppidum* or *Burgum Caralæ* or *Caraliæ*, it is not improbable that it is compounded of *caer*, a town, and *ayle* or *ala*, a wing or corner, which is quite descriptive of the place, the town being situated in the eastern corner of the county commonly known by the name of the East Nook o' Fife.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—The parish is of a very irregular shape, and of a very unequal breadth, while its boundaries are so ill defined that the precise number of acres which it contains has never been ascertained, on account of its intermixture with other parishes. However, it acknowledgedly extends from Fife Ness at the east, to King's Cairn at the west, a distance of about 7 miles, and from the Frith of Forth on the south, to the German Ocean on the north, about 3 miles; but within this area are included three farms in Kingsbarns, which were taken off when that parish was disjoined in 1631. It is bounded on the south and east by the Frith of Forth and German Ocean, extending along the former about 3, and the latter about 2 miles; on the north, it is bounded by the parishes of Kingsbarns, St Leonards, and Denino; and, on the west, by Carnbee and Kilrenny.

*Topographical Appearances.*—When viewed from the sea, the general appearance of the country is flat, and, owing to the want of wood, it looks naked. The coast is bold and rocky, with only a few creeks, where vessels of any size can be landed with safety



From the sea the ground rises abruptly to a considerable height, so that, at the distance of a hundred yards from high water mark, there is scarcely a point where it does not reach the height of 60 feet. Thence it gradually swells in a westerly direction, without hill or steep, towards Airdrie, (*Ard-rhi*, the King's Height,) and Drumrack. In this direction, when the sun goes westerly, and the atmosphere is favourable, the view at some points is beautiful and extensive. From Airdrie or Drumrack, and especially from the ancient tower of the former, one may, with a very slight turn of his eye, survey the whole Lothian coast from Leith to St Abb's Head, along with the islands of the Forth,—Inchkeith, the Bass, the May, &c., together with the multitude of vessels that float upon the Forth, and the number of towns and villages situated upon its banks on either side, till at last his attention is arrested by the Bell Rock Lighthouse, erected to warn the mariner of danger, and at night to guide him onward in his pathless track. In ascending from the shore to the highest part of the parish, the agriculturist never fails to be struck with the variety of soil he has to pass over, proceeding from the richest black loam to thin wet clay; the former, in the neighbourhood of the town, drawing a yearly rent of L.6 and L.7 the Scotch acre,—the latter let on improving leases for a mere trifle.

*Island and Rocks.*—The Isle of May, which, in 1743, was claimed by the magistrates and minister of West Anstruther, as a portion of their parish, has *de facto*, if not *de jure*, been connected with Crail since the Reformation at least. It lies about six miles south-east from the harbour of Crail, and is about a mile in length by about three-quarters of a mile in breadth. Its shores are generally clifly, and at the west end rise perpendicularly to the height of 150 feet or upwards. Yet there are two or three places at which vessels can touch according to wind and tide. Although situated in the mouth of the Frith of Forth at its junction with the German Ocean, and consequently exposed to heavy eastern storms, the island is very productive of its native plants, and several parks are cultivated and enclosed. It supports a few cows and a flock of sheep, which are said to improve in flesh and fleece. A peculiar kind of long-wooled rabbit is also found upon it; and about June and July immense numbers of birds breed their young upon the ledges of its western precipices. It has also abundance of fresh water and a small lake. This island, once famous for the cure of barren women, belonged at one time to the monks of Read-

ing, for whom David I. founded a monastery, which was afterwards dedicated to St Adrian, whose body was buried there, and whose coffin, cut out of stone, is still exhibited in the ruins of the chapel. From the monks it was purchased by a bishop of St Andrews, and attached first to his own cathedral and afterwards to the priory of Pittenweem. In aftertimes it became the property of Cuningham of Barns, and all parochial burdens exigible from it are understood to be paid out of his barony in the parish of Crail. This proprietor in 1635 received power from Parliament to erect a lighthouse upon the island, (though one had existed there before), and to collect certain duties from the shipping for its maintenance.

The lighthouse then erected consisted of a square tower, on the top of which a quantity of coals was kept burning every night. Rude as this mode of giving light to the navigators of the Forth may seem, it continued with little improvement till 1816, when the Commissioners of the Northern Lights (having previously purchased the island with all the rights of the light-keeping), erected a beacon with a stationary oil light, 240 feet above the medium level of the sea, and capable of being seen at seven leagues distance.

About the same time the attention of the Commissioners was directed to the Carr—a reef of rocks extending between one and two miles from Fifeness, on which, according to calculation, there had been at least two shipwrecks every year. And after years of labour and many disappointments, they at length succeeded in erecting a building at the extreme point, where there is water deep enough for vessels entering the Forth. This building consists of a base of solid masonry, from the top of which spring iron pillars terminating in a point, with a hollow ball raised 25 feet above the medium level of the sea. This erection was reckoned a mighty boon to the shipping interest; but still the Commissioners were not satisfied. Guided, therefore, by Mr Stevenson, civil engineer, they, in 1843–44, built a second lighthouse upon the May, with a light so directed as to point out the position of the Carr, and show mariners how to enter the Frith in safety. This light was first exhibited in autumn 1844; yet, strange to say, on the 1st of October of the same year, the Windsor Castle steamer, on her return from Dundee with about 200 passengers, who had gone thither to witness the Queen's departure, struck upon the Carr rock beacon with such violence as to compel the commander



to run her ashore among Kilminning rocks, where she went to pieces. Providentially no lives were lost.

Beside the lighthouses, there are comfortable lodgings for the keepers and their families, and excellent accommodation for the Commissioners when they may visit the island. The only inhabitants are the persons connected with the lighthouses; but there are generally also a number of pilots from various quarters looking out for ships, and the old light tower is fitted up for their accommodation.

*Hydrography.*—There are no lakes or rivers in this parish, yet there is a plentiful supply of excellent water from the springs which are everywhere to be found, and from a few burns which meander here and there. At one time there was a loch of Sypsies, covering six or eight acres of ground; but, since the beginning of the present century, it has been drained, and the soil is now under cultivation.

*Climate.*—The nature of the soil, and the position of the country at the junction of the Forth with the ocean, combine to render the climate particularly pure and healthful. The public roads, and the streets and walks of the town, are almost always dry, for no sooner does the rain fall, than it is absorbed and lost in the soil, or flows away into the sea. The spring is, no doubt, often rendered chill and unpleasant by a *haar* which sets in from the east during the months of April and May. The wind continuing in that quarter sometimes for weeks together, brings with it a dense vapour, which spreads over the country for several miles, thus rendering the east coast not so agreeable as the west at that period of the year; yet, though such weather be unpleasant to the feelings, and sometimes leads delicate persons to remove to a more inland situation, it does not seem to retard vegetation, or to be very prejudicial to animal health. Every species of crop advances to maturity as speedily as in almost any district of the country. The arbutus and similar trees often ripen their berries; the jessamine flowers on houses along the streets; and fuschias not only withstand the winter in open ground, but, on returning spring, may be found budding at a height of four and five feet from the ground. Indeed, unless upon extraordinary occasions, the labour of the husbandman has been, for a number of years, but little interrupted either by frost or snow. Bestial of all kinds thrive well and fatten rapidly. Among cattle, murrain prevailed pretty extensively last year, but with very few deaths; and this

year there have been a few instances of a sort of influenza among horses, but they have in general recovered. Judging from history and experience, the climate of this parish may be considered as highly conducive to health; and there can be no doubt that, from its proximity to the sea, it is less exposed to the extremes of heat and cold than more elevated situations.

Epidemics, or contagious diseases, (unless what are common to children,) are scarcely known here. Within these few years, several people have died beyond ninety years of age, and there are still a number in wonderful health and activity, who are upon the borders of it.

*Geology and Botany.*—The geological structure of this parish, as seen along the shore, consists entirely of the coal formation, including sandstone, shale, clay, ironstone, and coal. The usual dip of the strata is towards the east; but on the western part of the parish, where lime and coal are still wrought, the dip is to the west. On the west of the harbour, different seams of coal appear, and clay-ironstone in thin bands alternate with the shale. The action of the advancing tide is very remarkable on the east of the harbour, where the priory stood. The ruins, which were there about half a century ago, are now entirely swept away, and only the gateway from the land, with a small part of the foundation of a wall in the alluvial soil, remains to point out its site.

At the very extremity of Fifeness, a pure white sandstone occurs particularly adapted for various economical purposes. As plants used in medicine, the *Pareitaria officinalis* and *Conium maculatum* may be mentioned. On the rocks under the castle the *Cheiranthus Cheiri* occurs; and on the sea-cliffs to the west of the harbour, the *Brassica oleracea* maintains its place in a congenial locality. In a small garden on the sea margin at Fifeness is the *Lavatera arborea*, which once had a habitat on the islands of the Frith. The *Asplenium marinum* is met with among the rocks on the south shore.

Of the less common algæ may be mentioned the *Alaria esculenta* and the *Himanthalia lorea*, which grow abundantly about Fifeness.

*Woods.*—The plantations in this parish are of very limited extent, not exceeding seventy or eighty acres, chiefly fir; of which about fifty are on the lands of Airdrie and Redwells, ten or twelve on Kingsmuir, about eight on Sipsies, and four on Wormistone. A good number of the trees about Airdrie and Wormistone, chiefly



ash and elm, are of stately size. There are also a few in and around the churchyard, of ash, sycamore, and elm, on which crows find a place to build. But in general the soil is considered too valuable for agricultural purposes, to tempt any one to plant trees, unless around his domicile.

*Quarries and Mines.*—Freestone for ordinary purposes may be found in almost any quarter of the parish, so that few farmers require to go for stones beyond their own lands. At Craighead, Newhall, and Kingsmuir, stones may be found suited to the finest operations of masonry. Ironstone is also abundant, and frequently exported from the harbour of Crail. Lime has been wrought to a great extent upon the borough muir, as the remains of the work still testify. The only work of that description now in operation is at Troustrie, and occasionally at Newhall.

There are many indications of coals having been dug here at an early period; and only a few years ago Robert Inglis, Esq. had an extensive work upon his estate of Kirkmay, with a steam-engine for pumping out the water—but he gave it up. And at present, unless at times on Kingsmuir, coals are raised only for burning lime, though there is not the least doubt that many seams remain untouched.

Fire and common clays are dug in great abundance on the estate of Kirkmay, where a brick and tile work has been carried on for a long time. Fire-clay bricks and chimney cans are manufactured here and exported to Arbroath, Dundee, and other towns to a considerable extent.

## II. CIVIL HISTORY.

*Seats and Residences.*—Almost all the baronial abodes have been suffered to fall into decay or ruin, and some of them are now only known by name. At the southern extremity of this parish an old house with vaulted cellars, and rooms above, occupied by farm-servants, is the chief remain of the extensive mansion of the Cunninghams of Barns. Here, about 1620, the poet and historian, Drummond of Hawthornden, is understood to have written his celebrated *Polemo-Middinia*, or Battle of the Dunghill—a humorous poem in doggerel Latin, giving a satirical description of a real or an imaginary quarrel between the Lady of Barns and one of her neighbours. Here he tuned that lyre, (which he afterwards addressed in melancholy strains,) to the full enjoyment of a lively imagination and buoyant spirits. Here he may be said to have enjoyed the happiest period of his life. And here his feelings re-

ceived a shock which no human contrivance was able to remove. For it was at this spot, near *Crellia Crofta*, and in this very house, of which a remnant now is seen, that he captivated the affections of Miss Cunningham, the daughter of the principal heroine of the *Polemo*, and engaged her for his wife. The marriage day was fixed—the friends were invited—the feast was in preparation, and the parson engaged to do the solemn duty, when the beautiful and youthful bride was seized with fever and expired. Drummond's grief on this occasion he has expressed in poems which have gained him the name of the Scottish Petrarch. In the hope of relieving his burdened spirit, he forsook his patrimonial estate and country for foreign climes. Eight years he spent abroad. At length returning, he was united to Miss Logan, grand-daughter of Sir Robert Logan of Restalrig.

In process of time the estate of Barns passed into another family, and is now the property of Robert Anstruther, Esq. of Caipley.

A small summer-house on the rock projecting into the sea at Castlehaven points out the spot where Sir Neil Cunningham—an elder branch of the house of Barns—entertained his followers, and whence he defied the assaults of his deadly foes. The ruins of the castle were pulled down in 1839.

Newhall tower is now completely gone, so that only some old persons can point to the spot where once it stood.

Balcomie Castle, once reckoned amongst the finest buildings in Fife, and in which a late owner is reported to have said he could accommodate a troop of dragoons, and give every man a bed and every horse a stall, is now reduced to one wing, which, however, affords genteel and ample accommodation for the tenant. The ancient lofty tower still remains, though much mutilated, and, while it forms an excellent land-mark to mariners, shows what the building must have been. Some of the houses which enclose the court-yard are evidently of far more recent date than the castle; for, over the arched gateway into the court, there are two stones, on one of which are the arms of Learmonth, as depicted on the seating in the parish church, with the initials J. L. at the bottom, and on the other the arms of Myrton, with the initials E. M. Between these stones there is a vacant space, as if a third had dropped out; and fortunately, Mr Todd, the tenant, discovered it lately as one of the paving stones of his barn-floor. On this there are, at the top, hands joined as if by the ties of wedlock, and



underneath, the arms of Learmonth and Myrton quartered, with the letters J. M. and date 1602 at the base. We must therefore conclude that the initials J. L. and E. M. mean Sir John Learmonth and Elizabeth Myrton, the proprietors of the estate at the time, and husband and wife when that portion of the building was erected. Now, Sibbald states that from Malcolm IV. to James II. the castle belonged to the Hays; that since, the Leslie's have had it; and that afterwards it came to the Learmonth's; which would lead down to nearly the above date. Sir James Learmonth, eldest son of Sir John, became a Lord of Session in 1627, as Lord Balcomie. He was a member of several Parliamentary Commissions, and died in Edinburgh while presiding as Lord President of the Court, Lamont says, in June 1657. Lord Balcomie had a son, John, who became a regent in the Old College of St Andrews, but he must have died young, as his Lordship was succeeded in the castle and estate by a daughter as heiress. This daughter married Sir William Gordon of Lismore, and the property continued in the Gordon family till 1705, when it was purchased by Sir William Hope, son of Sir James Hope of Hopetown. Sir William was a soldier who had seen much foreign service, and gained the renown of being the most expert swordsman and the finest rider of his day. He published a work called "The Complete Fencing Master," in which he described the whole art, and gave directions how to act in single combat or on horseback. According to a tradition in the country, the fame of Sir William and his book induced a foreign cavalier to take a far journey to try his skill. Having arrived at Crail with this intent, he challenged Sir William to meet him on horseback in the open field. The parties met within a mile of the Castle of Balcomie, at the spot where the standing stone of Sauchope still remains, and which the road from Crail to Balcomie then passed. The onset was dreadful—but at length Sir William's sword, with deadly force penetrated the body of his antagonist. The wounded cavalier fell, and with his dying breath declared his name and title, and requested his victorious antagonist to become the protector of his widowed lady.

Sir William died in 1724, and was succeeded by his son Sir George, who enjoyed the property for a very few years. Sir William, son of Sir George, was an officer in the East India Company's service, and was killed in India. Thereafter the property was sold to Mr Scott of Scotstarvit, and left by him to his second son, General Scott, who rebuilt the part now occupied by

the tenant, and added a large house at the north end of it for a billiard room. The General seems to have had one son, who died young, and was interred in the choir of the church of Crail. His three daughters became respectively Duchess of Portland, Countess of Moray, and Lady Canning. By these noble persons the castle was sold to Thomas, Earl of Kellie, who pulled down the old building, and reduced it to what it now is. Sir Thomas Erskine, great-grandson of said Earl, is now the proprietor.

In the Castle of Balcomie Mary of Guise was hospitably entertained by the then proprietor, in June 1538, having landed, after a stormy passage, at the adjoining creek of Fifeness, to be married to King James V.

Airdrie House, which is situated in one of the most beautiful and commanding positions in the parish, is embosomed in wood in every direction, except the south, whence the finest view is to be had; but, like the other ancient dwellings, it is no longer the habitation of a belted knight or noble peer. Yet the ancient tower and most of the walls of the original house remain entire, though the interior arrangements are made to correspond to modern taste. Of this place, Sibbald says, "in King David II.'s reign I find that it belonged to Dundemore of that ilk. Afterwards it came to the Lumsdens, who had it in 1466." The family of Lumsden possessed it till at least the end of the sixteenth century, as is proved by a fine monument erected in the churchyard, of date 1598. From the Lumsdens, says the same writer, it was purchased by Sir John Preston of Pennycuik, President of the Session in King James VI.'s time, though it would appear he inherited it through his lady.

This baronet seems, along with many of the gentlemen in his neighbourhood, to have keenly espoused the cause of Charles I., and to have been subjected to pains and penalties in consequence. For, within a month after the death of that ill-fated monarch, we find in the record of the kirk-session, 16th February 1649, that Lord Balcomie, Sir John Preston of Airdrie, Lawrence Cunningham of Barns, John Lindesay of Wormistone, and a number of others, whose names are mentioned, had to appear before the congregation to acknowledge publicly their sinful engagement, and sign the covenant. During the seventeenth century Airdrie became the property of General Anstruther, who greatly enlarged the house by the addition of two wings, of which the one was a large and lofty hall, with figures in niches, pictures on the walls,



massy chandeliers for lights, and a splendid chimney-piece of white marble, which he brought workmen from Italy to execute. After the General's death the estate was purchased by Methven Erskine, Esq. afterwards Earl of Kellie, who died there in 1830. Upon the Earl's death Sir David Erskine, Bart. succeeded as heir of entail. He took down the wings built by General Anstruther, and removed the fine chimney-piece to his own house at Cambo, where it now ornaments the drawing-room.

Upon the same estate, but a little to the west of Airdrie, at Redwells, or Redwalls, stood an ancient and extensive building, the history of which we have not been able to find. It was a quadrangular building, having the ground apartments on every side arched over with hewn stone, and small apertures or loopholes at regular distances from each other. Over these there was a second story of solid masonry, containing accommodation for a numerous family, and at one end a well-paved barn, with two inclined planes up to the door, as if for cattle carrying up their burdens and again descending. The barn, the last remain of this singular erection, was taken down a few years ago, when the walls were found to be of amazing thickness, and of uncommon strength. A general impression is, that it had been a religious house; but, as some of the old charters convey the property *cum fortaliciis*, others think it must have been a kind of fortress; while from the name, *Ard-rhi*, or *King's height*, a third conjecture is, that it was a hunting seat of royalty.

Kingsmuir House, the residence of George Francis Hannay, Esq. is a respectable country mansion, which has been greatly enlarged, and now forms a genteel and comfortable dwelling.

In former times, the extensive property on which this mansion stands, was an open muir adjoining to the commonty of Crail, with limits so ill defined as to lead many to believe that the neighbouring proprietors helped themselves to portions of it, without leave asked or given. However, after it came into possession of the present family, buildings began to be erected, and progress towards improvement made, so that in 1724 the presbytery of St Andrews took into consideration, "under whose ministerial inspection the dwellers thereon should be," and adjudged the inhabitants *ad interim* to be under the jurisdiction of the minister of Denino. A similar appointment took place in 1743, when a new minister came to that parish. Thus it continued till it was found necessary to rebuild the church and manse of Denino, when Mr Hannay being

called upon to pay his proportion of the expenses either as *quoad sacra* or *quoad omnia* in the parish, he refused all, and was exempted from payment, upon pleading that his property formed a portion of the King's muir of Crail. And in 1828, when the seating of the church of Crail was enlarged, Mr Hannay attended the meetings of heritors, and claimed his position as a proprietor in the parish, together with the right of himself and his tenants to be admitted to all the privileges of parishioners. His claim was admitted, seats in the church were allocated to him, and instructions given to the kirk-session accordingly. Since that date, therefore, Kingsmuir has been considered as an integral part of the parish of Crail, and its poor have been supported out of the common funds. It may be here observed, that in no place in this quarter has the judicious management of a resident landlord been more remarkable than in the case of Kingsmuir. Within the last twenty-five or thirty years, Mr Hannay and his tenants have, by their skill and industry, brought hundreds of acres, which before were considered a barren waste, into very productive corn land; and where, before that date, neither man nor beast could pass without the risk of sticking in the mire, luxuriant crops of wheat now grow. This alteration Mr Hannay has effected by paring, burning and liming where any heather grew, and by draining and enriching the boggy land. The estate is now nearly all under cultivation, and we hope and trust that the spirited proprietor will be spared to reap the reward of all his personal exertion, and his liberality towards his tenantry.

Wormistone, the residence of David Aytone Lindesay, Esq., is a fine old house surrounded by hard-wood trees of considerable size, and the only place in the parish in which, for hundreds of years, the same family have had their abode. This property, Sibbald says, belonged of old to a family of the name of Spens, descended from Macduff, Earl of Fife; but in the beginning of the 17th century it came into the possession of Patrick Lindesay, a descendant of Lord Lindesay of the Byres. John Lindesay, son of the first proprietor of this name, (as shown in the account of Airdrie,) was, like Lord Balcomie and the landholders in this quarter in general, a strenuous supporter of Charles the First and Second; as his descendants afterwards were of King James and Prince Charles; and much the family suffered in consequence of their attachment to that infatuated race. This gentleman had to submit to the degradation of appearing before the con-



gregation within the church of Crail, and there making a public disavowal of his adherence to the cause of Charles I.; and at the battle of Worcester, in 1651, one of his sons was slain and another taken prisoner while contending in the royal army. Patrick (the son taken prisoner) either experienced the leniency or escaped the cruelty of Cromwell, and, after the Restoration, was appointed commissary of St Andrews, an office which was held by several of his descendants in succession. In the troubles of 1715, this family appears to have taken an active part in favour of King James; and to have suffered in substance, if not personally;\* and in 1746, Patrick Lindesay, son of the then proprietor, was executed at Carlisle for having joined Prince Charles, and fought at the battle of Culloden. The last proprietor, Patrick Lindesay, Esq., commanded a ship for a number of years in the East Indies, and afterwards purchased the patrimonial property from his elder brother, who had succeeded to the estate of Kilconquhar.

Kirkmay House is a handsome and spacious building, at a little distance from the principal street of the burgh, with pleasure ground in front, and a fine garden and offices behind. It was built in 1817 by Robert Inglis, Esq. of Kirkmay, a descendant of the baronets of Cramond, and is the finest modern structure in the parish.

\* A letter, which the writer of this found in Wormistone house, together with the annexed extracts from the record of the kirk session, will help to show the state of the parish at the time. This letter is addressed "To the Laird of Wormistoun and Heritors of the parish of Crail," and is as follows: "Sir,—I am directed and ordered by the Earl of Marr, commander in chief of his Majesty's forces in this kingdom, to transmitt to one of the principal heritors of each parish the inclosed order, and it is required that the order so transmitted should be intimated to the severall heritors and their tennents within your parish, to the intent that punctuall obedience to my Lord Marr's orders." (may be given, we presume, has been omitted.) "You have the inclosed warrand sent you to be published and intimattted accordingly. If payment of the money imposed is refused or delayed after three days, a party of Highlandmen are to be employed to poind for payment: What loss that will occasion to your parish you may easily conceive, and that it may be prevented is heartily wished by—Sir, your most humble servant, (Signed) J. A. SMYTH. Dated Cupar, 13th October 1715.

Session Record, 18th October 1715. "There was no sermon Sabbath last, the Highland army being here." Nov. 13. "There was no sermon Sabbath or week day, the town being then bombarded, and the minister sought for to read the Earl of Marr his edict." Nov. 20. "No sermon on Sabbath, the Highlanders being in town." Nov. 27. "The Minister forbidden to preach in the church, unless he read the Earl of Marr his edict, and pray for K. James. A young man, Mr Nivens, by order of baillie Craford, preached in the church after the old Episcopall fashion. Our minister preached in his own house." Dec. 6. "Sermon in the minister's house." Dec. 11. "No sermon, being stopped by a party of Highlanders." Dec. 18. "Sermon in the Minister's house forenoon, but interrupted afternoon." Dec. 25. "No sermon, being stopped by letters, one from baillie Crawford to baillie Robertson, another threatening letter to the minister." Jan. 31 1716. "No sermon on Sunday by our minister, the Highlandmen being here. One Mr Nivens, an Episcopall preacher, possessed the kirk that day, and had the English service."

*Heritors.*—In mentioning the land-owners of the parish, it may be proper to mention, that for the purposes of building or repairing church, manse, or school, one-third of the expense is defrayed by the corporation as superiors of the town and burgh muir. The other two-thirds are paid by the landward heritors, according to their valued rents, as under.

Heritors.	Valued rent in Scots money.
Sir Thomas Erskine, Bart.	L. 5208 14 3
J. Inglis, Esq. of Kirkmay,	2545 15 0
General Graham Stirling,	1480 11 6
J. Lindesay, Esq. of Wormistone,	1273 0 0
R. Anstruther, Esq. of Third part,	687 14 2
Captain Corstorphine of Pittowie,	619 12 7
Wm. Douglas, Esq. of Pinkerton,	583 8 1
Mrs Murray, Crail,	305 5 1
Geo. F. Hannay, Esq. of Kingsmuir,	200 0 0
Andrew Brown, Esq.,	193 6 4
Mrs Wemyss of Denbrae,	131 12 1
Trustees of W. Glass, Esq.,	125 9 8
Kilrenny Fisherman's Box,	114 0 0
Kirk-session of Crail,	64 13 4
Mrs Dr Chalmers,	58 0 0
Right Hon. Lord William Douglas,	57 0 0
Crail Sea Box,	55 10 7
Mr R. Meldrum of Peatfield,	55 6 8
Thomas Landale, Esq. S. S. C.,	47 0 8
Lord Blantyre for Troustrie feu,	28 13 4
Rev. Bishop Low, Pittenweem,	18 0 0
Town of Crail,	10 13 4
Mr D. Henderson,	6 13 4
Valued rent of the parish,	L. 13,870 0 0

This valuation is, with the exception of Kingsmuir, the same as the parish was rated at in the new valuation of Fifeshire 1695; and, though it be very high in comparison of many other places, it shows that the land in this quarter must have been early in a high state of cultivation. In 1815 the landward part of the parish was valued at L. 7234 Sterling, for property-tax, and the burgh L. 1391 Sterling, making in all L. 8625; and it is considered that the real rental of the parish, exclusive of the burgh and its pendicles, is now only about L. 10,000.

*Parochial Registers.*—These commence, on the 15th April 1648, with a minute in the beautiful handwriting of Mr James Sharp, who was then minister of the parish and afterwards Archbishop of St Andrews, and are carried on, with little interruption, to the present day. The greatest blanks are from the 4th February 1729 to the 4th January 1732, which seems to have been occasioned by the clerk neglecting to copy from his scroll-book, as the leaves are paged but not filled up; and from 1779 to 1790. They now occupy fourteen folio volumes, and are valuable records



of the days of other years ; for they not only contain the minutes of session with an account of its discipline ; a register of births, baptisms, and marriages, along with the receipts and disbursements for the poor, and a list of deaths and burials ; but, by their direct or indirect reference to passing events, they tend to throw light upon the state of society and the history of the times. No doubt, in perusing them we are sometimes astonished at the powers which the office-bearers of a Protestant church seem to have exercised over the persons and properties of the people ; but, if we carry our minds back to the rude state of society which then existed, and reflect on the difficulty which the learned had to instil moral and religious feelings into the ignorant population, we must admit that the men acted in the manner that was perhaps best suited to the times. With these views we might perhaps be able to vindicate the conduct of the afterwards Archbishop from all reproach on account of his severest acts of discipline while minister of Crail. Yet, even in those days, his proceedings did not escape the animadversion of his brethren ; for, at the termination of little more than the first two years of the record, we find the visitors appending the following not very ambiguous hint : “ St Andrews, 21st August 1650.—The Presbyterie, after revising and considering this book, do commend and approve the proceedings of the session. Only they are appointed to refer to the civil magistrate the enjoining of corporal punishment and pecunial mulcts.” One grand point against which Mr Sharp seems to have firmly and properly turned his face was the desecration of the Lord’s day ; and there is no wonder that this was necessary, considering that the parents of the then generation were accustomed to regard it as the day of greatest relaxation and business ; for, be it remembered, it was only about sixty years before his time that an act of the Scottish Parliament was passed, abolishing the Sunday market in Crail.

Though, then, the power assumed by Mr Sharp and his successors seems to us to have been occasionally unwarrantable, when we look back to the times, we will be brought to admit that the stretch of power was for the benefit of the people, and perhaps the only way in which the lower classes could be brought to submit to Divine or human authority.

Besides the registers above noticed, there are four volumes of records of burials, which commenced in 1754 and are still carrying on. These have been kept by the beadles, and point out the spot

where every body has been laid, by stating in yards and feet the distance and direction of the grave from certain fixed points about the church and churchyard. For some time, these records were considered as almost a sufficient register of deaths. But, as in 1826, the inhabitants erected a vault in the churchyard, in which corpses were to be deposited in winter for three months and in summer about six weeks, and then buried; the interval between death and burial was, in many cases, found too long for identifying a deceased individual; and therefore the plan of keeping a separate register of deaths was renewed.

*Antiquities.*—Some of these will be afterwards mentioned, such as the castle, the priory, and the college; to which it may be added that a nunnery is said to have existed near the Nethergate Port, of which only an entrance now remains; but, at this entrance, human bones were found, when the street was levelled a few years ago. In the church, there is an oblong Runic stone, a good deal mutilated, having cut upon it a Maltese cross, with figures like serpents over it. “Below the transept,” as Leighton describes it, “on each side of the lower limb of the cross a variety of figures are sculptured, now much defaced and indistinct. On the right side is a portion of a horse, a wild boar, the legs of a man, another horse, and a ram; on the left, a figure seated in a chair something like a man, with the head of a bird, as seen on Egyptian antiquities; and, lower down, part of a horse and part of a dog.” Other relics of similar antiquity are believed to have been in the church, before last repair; but the workmen, not knowing the value put upon them by antiquaries, hewed them down into paving stones. The stone mentioned in the former Statistical Account as having a cross rudely sculptured on it, is no doubt of the same description. It is the one at which Sir William Hope is reported to have killed his challenger. Many urns containing calcined bones have been dug up in different parts of the parish. In 1843, at a place called Swinkie Hill, probably *Sueno's Knoll*, no fewer than seven urns were discovered; and, in April 1845, another was found at Toldrie. They seem to be all of the same kind of material, though differing a little in size. The general shape is tapering towards both ends, with various beltings, and some with zig-zag ornaments. All were found with their mouths downwards, imbedded in an artificial mound which seemed to have been erected over them. Some of these urns may now be seen in the Museum at St Andrews. When levelling the ground ad-



joining to Castle Haven several stone-coffins were found with bones nearly consumed ; but, about twenty years ago, about thirty were discovered lying in regular rows, with bones so entire that the farmer dug a hole and buried them. The last were upon the estate of Wormistone, near the cave in which the Danes are said to have murdered King Constantine II. in the year 874, and may have contained the remains of persons killed at that time.

The only other antiquity in the parish which seems deserving of notice is the *Dane's Dyke*, a building of dry stones of about half a mile in length, said to have been raised by the Danes when they fled before Constantine II. after defeat at the water of Leven in 874. This dike, at one time, enclosed a considerable piece of ground of a triangular shape, having to the east the little harbour of Fifeness, whence, it is said, the Danes expected to escape in their boats, which were then hovering at the mouth of the Frith. A considerable portion of it is now removed, the farmhouse of Craighead being built upon its site. From what remains now faced up on one side as a park fence, some have disputed the accuracy of the tradition, and maintained that it was a natural, not an artificial mound. This supposition, however, is disproved by the fact, that, in removing a portion of it, human bones were found, and none but broken and carried stones discovered. At the one end, which must have been within the dike, is a natural cave in the rocks, which the appearance of lime at its mouth indicates to have been extended by artificial means. This is the spot of the reputed murder of Constantine. At the other end, but without the dike, a place is pointed out called the *Long man's grave*, where the ashes of a Danish hero may have been deposited.

### III.—POPULATION.

Partly owing to the enlargement of farms and doing away with cottars, and partly owing to fewer hands being employed in fishery, the population of the town and parish has been diminishing for a great number of years.

In 1753 the population amounted to	2173
1791, . . . . .	1710
1801, . . . . .	1652
1811, . . . . .	1600
1821, . . . . .	1854
1831, including Kingsmuir,	1966
but excluding Kingsmuir,	1836
1841, including do. . .	1906
but excluding do. . .	1765
Decrease since 1753, . .	408

Statistics of the burgh in 1841.—Houses inhabited, 261; houses not inhabited, 23. Males, 520; females, 707; total, 1227.

In the same year there were in the landward 342 males and 337 females, of whom 66 males and 75 females were upon Kingsmuir.

Marriages in 1844, 13; births, 52; deaths, 42; increase, 10.

The food of the lower classes is chiefly farinaceous and vegetable. Yet butcher-meat is used to some extent in every family; for there are few householders who do not every year feed a pig or two for domestic use.

The people on the whole enjoy in a tolerable degree the comforts and advantages of society, and are industrious and contented. They are justly entitled to be denominated an enlightened, intelligent, and well-principled community. In their daily intercourse, they are kind and friendly, and in their general conduct obliging and civil.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture and Rural Economy.*—In agriculture almost every species of modern improvement has been tried, with the greatest activity and attention, so as to bring the land to the highest state of cultivation and productiveness, and in very few places have the effects of draining and trenching been more conspicuous than here. The places which old people recollect of, fifty or sixty years ago, as dangerous for man or beast to tread on from their boggy nature, are now bearing luxuriant crops of corn—the rough and stony *bawks* which intersected almost every field and yielded a scanty support to the cows, can no longer be distinguished from the surrounding soil. Nor are the improvements on the land more remarkable than the change in the implements of husbandry. At the period referred to, no farmer was reckoned respectable who had not two or four oxen with a couple of horses and two men to conduct the slow motion of each cumbrous plough. Now 115 ploughs are at work in the parish, each drawn by a couple of horses guided by a single man;—then *wains*, or large carts with a pole to which two oxen were yoked with two horses as leaders, formed the only mode of carrying manure to the field or produce to the market; now not a wain is to be seen nor an ox in harness;—then the cattle fed upon the grass that grew from the roots of the *quicken* or couch grass upon the *fauch* or fallow land;—now labourers may be seen picking up and carrying away in their baskets every portion of the roots that had escaped the harrow;—then, too, the



ploughman had to start at cock-crowing to prepare the daily straw for his cattle ; now the sound of the flail is seldom heard, as every farmer has his thrashing-mill. The first two-horse plough in the parish was used upon Pittowie in 1783-4, and conducted by one who still lives and enjoys a good old age. The first thrashing-mill was erected in 1801.

The greater number of farms have been furrow drained ; and with the exception of the quantity already mentioned as being under wood, and about sixty acres, chiefly sea braes and links used as pasture, the whole land in the parish is under tillage.

Near the coast, sea-weed is much used as a manure which answers well, so that some pieces of ground which seldom get a change, produce as good crops as any lands adjoining. Lime and stable dung are of course universal ; bone-dust, guano, soda, &c. are also more or less employed.

The rotation of crops differ according to the soil and situation, but the generality follow the four or six rotation. In the former case, the crops are, 1st, potatoes or turnips ; 2d, wheat or barley ; 3d, beans or grass ; 4th, wheat or oats. In the latter, 1st, fallow ; 2d, wheat ; 3d, beans ; 4th, barley ; 5th, grass ; 6th, oats ; and then recommence with fallow, potatoes, or turnips. In consequence, it will be seen that very little land lies fallow, not above one acre out of twenty ; while potatoes and grass may be reckoned each one in six ; turnips and beans each one in twelve ; the remainder in wheat, barley and oats. Bere or bigg is very seldom grown.

In a parish containing such a variety of soil, and one acre in one locality producing more than two in another, it is almost impossible to ascertain the actual amount of produce ; but the following may be regarded as an average per Scotch acre. Potatoes, 35 bolls ; turnips, 20 tons ; beans, 4 quarters ; wheat,  $4\frac{1}{2}$  quarters ; barley, 6 quarters ; oats,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  quarters ; grass, 175 stones.

*Stock.*—There are not many cattle bred in this parish, but such as are, consist chiefly of the Fife and short-horned breed. A good many calves are purchased and brought from other places ; and a number of two and three year old beasts are bought at the public markets, partly for the purpose of eating the straw and turnips to make manure, and partly to fatten for the butcher ; and from the great attention paid, they generally bring very high prices. Great attention is paid to the quality and keeping of horses, as well as to their harness, &c. Only one or two farmers keep any

flocks of sheep, and these they generally bring from the Highlands to fatten for the market.

*Wages.*—Young unmarried men living about the farm get from L.9 to L.12 a-year, according to their age and qualifications. Married farm-servants have from L.10 to L.12, with a house and garden; 10 pecks of potatoes planted,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of meal, half a boll of pease or wheat, a pint of sweet or  $1\frac{1}{2}$  of skimmed milk a-day, coals driven, and liberty to feed a pig with their own potatoes,—all of which are estimated at about L.25 a-year. Female servants living in their masters' houses get from L.5 to L.6 a-year. Other field labourers are, males, 9s. a-week; females, 4s. a-week or 8d. a-day; but in harvest the daily wages are higher.

In very few places, are the farm-steadings so good and the accommodation for man and beast so ample, as they are in general in this parish, which proves the good taste of the tenants and the liberality of the landlords. Leases are in general for nineteen years.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Means of Communication.*—Only one mail arrives here every day, bringing letters from every direction, which often occasions serious inconvenience, as letters from St Andrews and other towns only a few miles off are received here the day after they were written, and the answer fares the same. This might be remedied by the post-office re-establishing the runner between Crail and St Andrews, as it was to 1829. By this means letters written in that city could be received here within two hours of the time when they were posted. There are turnpike roads crossing the parish in every direction, and the commutation roads are in good keeping.

A light van or waggon has, for many years, run from this to St Andrews every lawful day, carrying passengers and parcels. A parcel carrier goes to and returns from Anstruther in the same manner. A carrier goes twice a-week to Edinburgh. There are also conveyances to Dundee and Cupar for goods. By sea the conveyance of passengers and goods is still more complete, as the Aberdeen, Montrose, and Dundee steamers call off the harbour, thus giving always one, and often three opportunities a-day, of getting to Edinburgh, and, on their return, a conveyance to the respective ports to which they belong.

*Royal Burgh of Crail.*—As a town, Crail is of great antiquity, and mentioned by the Scottish historians as a place of some consequence so early as the beginning or middle of the ninth century.



As in days of other years, it consists chiefly of two parallel streets extending along the shore from east to west, intersected by others of inferior note. Many of the houses are large and of ancient appearance, giving evidence of the grandeur of former days, when some of the neighbouring proprietors of land had either their house in town, or one to which the dowager might retire when the old laird died and the son came into possession of the estate. At one period the thoroughfares seem to have been considerably interrupted by houses projecting upon them at right angles here and there; but these have been mostly bought up by the corporation and removed; so that there are very few towns of its size in which more spacious streets are to be found. These are now lighted with gas, and in general kept very clean. There was a royal residence within the town, upon an elevation overlooking the present harbour, of which some vestiges still remain; but at what time it was erected, cannot now be ascertained, nor by how many crowned heads it was occupied. However, the historians of the day agree in admitting that David the First lived in it about the beginning of the twelfth century. Sibbald says he died here, but others maintain that he died at Carlisle, where he had a residence as Duke of Cumberland, and that the mistake arose in consequence of the similarity of names, *Carayl* and *Carlisle*.

It is not unlikely that this monarch or some of his successors might have conferred some important privileges upon the town in which he occasionally dwelt, but of that we have only this presumptive evidence, that when Robert the Bruce granted a charter to the burgh, which is dated at Stirling 12th June 1310, he confirmed to the burgesses and community privileges which they had enjoyed under former kings, and exempted them from all jurisdiction vicecomitis de Fife. This charter, with several new grants, was afterwards ratified by Robert II., Queen Mary, James VI. and Charles I. By these charters the privileges of the burgh, extended not only over the town and common muir, but also from the middle of the water of Leven to the water of Puttekin, (now called Pitmilly burn), with a right to the fishings, tolls, anchorages, &c. in all the harbours and creeks within these bounds, being an extent of coast of about twenty-five miles. Yet, though all these rights were confirmed by Charles I. in his deed executed at Whitehall on the 20th April 1635, there seem to have been some heartburnings excited, and a desire expressed by many to get free from the jurisdiction of Crail long before that date. For in 1587,

when Anstruther was erected into a royal burgh, we find in the proceedings of Parliament that James Geddy, burgess of Carrail, appeared before the king and three estates, and in name and behalf of the same burgh solemnly protested "that the erection, creation, and confirmation of the burgh of Anstruther in ane free burgh royal suld on nawys be hurtfull or prejudiciall to the said burgh of Carrail anent the richtis, liberties, and privileges of the same." About the same year, the bailies and council of Crail are understood to have let in feu-farm the customs, anchorages, &c. of Elie to Thomas Dischinton of Ardross, through whom they have been transmitted to the family of Anstruther; but the feuduty has not been paid for many years. The towns of Pittenween and Anstruther appear also to have complained of the jurisdiction of Crail as a grievance, and threatened to resist payment; but the dispute was settled by arbitration, and both towns continue to pay a trifling sum yearly in name of *reddendo*, in consequence of which a free trade is established. A similar contract seems to have been made with the late Thomas Earl of Kellie, about 1810, for the customs, anchorages, &c. of Fifeness, Old Haiks and Kingsbarns, and thus the ancient jurisdiction of the burgh has been much curtailed. Still the town has a revenue of nearly three hundred pounds a-year, which answers all the purposes of the corporation. The ends of the streets leading out of the town still retain the name of ports, which would lead one to infer that at some period they had been actually shut up with gates; and that they were so, is evident not only from the fact, that an act of Parliament was passed in 1503, wherein it is statute and ordained, that all towns and ports on the sea side, sik as Leith, Inverkeithing, Kinghorn, Dysart, Crail, and others, ware their common gudes on the walls of the town to the sea side, with ports of lime and stane;" but many people are alive who recollect of the ports being taken down. The burgh had also the liberty of holding a free market upon Sunday, which, by an act passed in Parliament in 1587, was changed from Sunday to Saturday, and all markets between the waters of Leven and Puttekin forbidden on any other day. In proof of this we may mention that the following entry is in the session record of St Andrews:—"April 18, 1582. A great number of drapers, fleshers, and merchants, accused of keeping the market of Crail on the Sabbath; prohibited from repeating the offence under pain of exclusion, and debarring of themselves, their wives, bairns and servants



from all benefit of the kirk in time coming, viz. baptism, the Lord's supper, and marriage."

Before and up to the beginning of last century, Crail was a great station for the herring fishery. To this many resorted from different parts of the country, particularly from Angus and Aberdeen shires, who were supplied with nets and other conveniences by the inhabitants for a stipulated premium. Over the multitude of boats that then assembled in the Frith, a person (generally a lawyer from Edinburgh) was appointed by the Lord High Admiral to preside, under the title of Admiral-depute for the east of Fife. This officer had power of trying all offences committed by persons engaged in the fishing, and of fining or otherwise punishing those found guilty. He had also a vessel called the admiral's boat, which was employed in regulating the fishery, and fired a gun for announcing the hours of beginning or ending the fishing, particularly on the Mondays and Saturday nights; for which each boat had to pay a certain sum as admiral's dues.

Since then, however, the fishing has gradually declined, and was nearly lost sight of upon the Fife coast; and the office, as well as officer, is entirely unknown. But within the last few years, the fish have returned to their wonted haunts, and many who from their early years had been in the habit of joining the herring fishery at Wick or other places in the north, have staid at home and reaped the reward of their labour. Yet Crail has not resumed its place as a fishing station—for last year there were only twelve boats belonging to the harbour engaged in the trade. In former times Crail, Kilrenny, the two Anstruthers, and Pittenweem had the privilege of returning a member to Parliament; but, since the Reform Act was passed, St Andrews (the returning burgh) and Cupar have been associated with them; and these, being larger towns, swallow up in a great measure all the consequence of the minor burghs at a disputed election. The government of the town is vested in three bailies and a treasurer, with seventeen other members of town-council. There are seven incorporated trades. In the centre of the town, there is a very neat town-hall and a lock-up-house, with two cells under charge of the police. The harbour is small, not very safe, and difficult of access to the small vessels that frequent it; but Room or the old harbour, which is only about a quarter of a mile to the eastward of the present, might be easily converted into a haven capable of containing a large fleet, and would, it is said, have nearly thirty feet of water at spring tides.

It is sheltered from all winds but the south, and may be entered by vessels of small draught of water, from any point, at an hour and a quarter's flood. The corporation have voted a sum of money to defray the expense of having it surveyed with the view of bringing it under the notice of Government, as a harbour of refuge; and should it be so constructed, it would prove a benefit not only to the traders on the Forth, but also to the whole east coast of Scotland.

Unless in importing coals, and exporting the produce of the land, the port is not much frequented by shipping. However, twelve vessels belong to it, with a register of 530 tons. In potatoes alone, several vessels have been employed for a portion of the year, carrying them to Newcastle, London, and elsewhere; above 3000 tons having been exported in one season. This crop has fallen off considerably for some time, and, in consequence, last year's export was only 1800 tons. Fishing is not carried on to the same extent as in some of the neighbouring places, such as Cellardyke. Yet a number of respectable men contrive to make a living by it. The kinds of fish which they most commonly bring ashore are, cod, ling, halibut, haddock, rock or red cod, cole-fish, dog-fish, cat-fish, flounder, turbot, skate, and occasionally mackerel. Sand-eels and shrimps are gathered among the sand as the tide recedes. The principal employment of the fishermen here is in catching shell-fish, such as lobsters and crabs, but in these the quantity seems to be rapidly diminishing; for, when Mr Bell wrote the former Statistical Account, he states the number of lobsters sent annually to the London market to be about 20,000 or 25,000, and that ten years before there was double the number; whereas, though the same trade be still continued, the number sent to London last year was only about 4000. During the same year, (1844,) after supplying the home consumption, between 3000 and 4000 dozens of crabs were sent to the markets of Dundee and Edinburgh. Within the last few years, a new trade in shell-fish has been opened with London, viz. in periwinkles or wilks, of which no fewer than 50 tons were sent from Crail in 1844. The town-council has also let the salmon-fishing to the south of the town, and, a few days ago, the tacksman set his nets and was successful. He therefore anticipates that the salmon-fishing will be advantageous to himself, and a new source of revenue to the town.

In the burgh, no manufactures are carried on, nor any trade of



importance, except what is required for the neighbourhood ; but there are a post-office, with a daily arrival of the mail, a number of shops at which any of the necessaries of life can be purchased, a good butcher-market, and a brewery. Fourteen persons are licensed to sell spirits, and two gentlemen act as medical practitioners. The Parliamentary and municipal constituency is 51.

The town is ten miles south-east by east from St Andrews, and thirty north north-east from Edinburgh.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—It is generally believed that Crail was at one time the seat of a priory dedicated to St Rufus, and, when the last Statistical Account was written, a ruinous gable with Gothic windows was standing, and bore the name of the Prior Walls. That gable was thrown down by the sea about the year 1801, and there now only remain some of the foundations of the outworks, to point out where it once stood. The adjoining ground, however, retains the name of the Prior's Croft, and a well near the old building is still called the Briery or Priory Well. As this is not mentioned among the religious houses suppressed at the Reformation, some have doubted the common tradition ; but Leighton, in his *Fife Illustrated*, states that, according to General Hutton, there is an old manuscript inventory among the Harleian manuscripts in the British Museum, in which the following charter is mentioned :—" To the prior of Crail, of the second teinds of the lands between the waters of Neithe and Nith." There was also a chapel within the Castle of Crail, dedicated to St Rufe, which had teinds belonging to it, both parsonage and vicarage, but its name is now only to be found in ancient charters.

The present church is so old that many believe it to be the one in which David I. worshipped when he lived in Crail ; and, although its beauty has been much destroyed by the alterations it has undergone, it is still a fine specimen of pointed architecture. It consists of a central nave, with aisles divided by a row of pillars on each side, and, at the east end, a portion of what originally formed the choir, in which daily service was performed. The choir was for a number of years shut up ; but, in 1828, it was re-opened, and seated for the sake of additional accommodation to the parishioners. In all, the church will now accommodate nearly 1000 persons, being about the legal allowance for the population. This church, which, with the teinds, both parsonage and vicarage, anciently belonged to the priory of Haddington, was, in the year 1517, (upon the petition and endowment of Sir

William Myreton, vicar of Lathrisk, and Janet, prioress of Haddington,) erected into a collegiate church, with a provost, sacrist, ten prebendaries, and a chorister. The provost had a right to the vicarage tithes, and six of the prebendaries had annuities, payable out of certain lands and tenements of houses lying in the town and neighbourhood, mortified for that purpose by Sir William Myreton, who is called the founder of the College Kirk of Crail. At that time, besides the high altar, which was richly endowed, there were eight other altars within the church dedicated to the Virgin Mary, to St Catharine, to St Michael, to St James, to St John the Baptist, to St Stephen, to St John the Evangelist, and to St Nicholas.\*

For many years after the college was established, the church retained its connection with the priory of Haddington; for though King James VI., in 1586-7, made over to the town of Crail the place called the college, with the college kirk, and all emoluments belonging to the provost and prebends thereof, with the advocacy, donation, and right of patronage, it was not till 1594 that an act of Parliament was passed disjoining the church and parish from the priory, and establishing Crail as an independent rectory.

By this act, one-third part of the fruits was assigned to the minister serving the cure, another to the new college of St Andrews for the sustentation of students of theology, and the remaining third to the college of Edinburgh, for students of philosophy,—Lord Lindsay being declared patron of the parsonage and bursaries.

“About the time of the Reformation,” says Mr Bell, in the former Statistical Account, “Lord Lindsay seems to have obtained from the prioress and convent of Haddington a tack of the teinds both parsonage and vicarage, for the yearly rent of two hundred and fifty-five merks. The patronage was vested in Sir William Murray of Balvaird, who presented Mr Murray to the benefice. He then resigned the patronage into the king’s hands in favour of John Lord Lindsay, who, in 1609, obtained from Mr Murray a confirmation of the former tack of the teinds for three lives and three nineteen years.”

“The town of Crail,” says the same writer, “having by several charters obtained a grant of the *collegiate church* and its revenues, with the right of patronage, &c. disputes began to arise between

\* A list of the “ornaments and sylver werk in the College Kyrk of Carale,” is contained in the chartulary now in the Advocates’ Library.



it and Lord Lindsay concerning their respective rights. To prevent law-suits, a compromise was entered into in 1630, by which the town's right to the collegiate church and place called the college, with the right of patronage, was confirmed; but its claim to emolument was expressly restricted to the tithe fish, and the rents, fees, and duties which had been the especial property of the provost and prebendaries. The parsonage and vicarage tithes, excepting the tithe fish, were declared to remain with his Lordship and his successors. In 1774-6, the question concerning the right of patronage to the *parish church* was tried. By an interlocutor of the Lord Ordinary, it was given against the town, and the Earl of Crawford, as successor to Lord Lindesay, considered as undoubted patron. The Earl of Glasgow is now patron, as representing the Earl of Crawford.

It is proper to mention that in this church John Knox preached and excited the people to begin the work of abolishing the monuments of idolatry in Fife. In reference to this, Grierson, the historian of St Andrews, says, "John Knox, on Sunday the 29th of May 1559, preached a sermon at the town of Crail, in which he represented the favourers of Popery as guilty of the heinous sin of idolatry, and their churches as containing the monuments of it, namely, pictures and images. The effect of his eloquence was such, that the populace immediately rose, and in a very short time demolished all the churches in Crail, Anstruther, and the other adjacent towns along the sea coast. They then proceeded to St Andrews, where the preacher delivered another sermon of the same sort on Sunday the 5th of June; and the effect of it was similar to that which had before taken place at Crail, for the infuriated mob set instantly about demolishing the superb cathedral church, plundered both the monasteries of the Black and Greyfriars, and razed these edifices to the ground."

Spottiswood says, "John Knox preached a sermon at Crail, and persuaded the expulsion of the French. The people were so moved by his exercitation, that they immediately set about pulling down altars, images, and every thing which had been abused to idolatry; and did the same next day at Anstruther, and from thence came to St Andrews."

Besides the religious houses already mentioned, there was, no doubt, a cell or chapel dedicated to St Minin or Monan at Kilminning farm; the corn-yard of which is still full of graves, like a regular burying-ground.

Within the town there is a congregation of the Associate Synod, who have a church and a minister's house enclosed in a garden. The members of the Free Protestant Church are also building a place of worship.

Attendance at church is remarkably good, and the ordinary number of communicants about 800.

The manse, which is within the burgh at the entry to the church, with a small garden attached to it, was purchased by the kirk-session in 1637 for 3300 merks, and mortified to the then minister and his successors in office. The house, thus bought, remained entire till 1789, when the greater part of it was taken down and the present manse erected in its stead, having still a portion of the old building for bed-rooms and other conveniences; but in 1829 the last remains of the old house were swept away, cellars, &c. erected on its site, and a third storey added to what was then called the new manse. As it now stands, it is a good commodious dwelling, and has every convenience that a family may desire. The offices are very poor, consisting only of an old stable and a gig-house; but the minister is allowed a sum of money to pay the rent of additional accommodation, till a proper situation can be found for building a suitable steading.

The glebe was designed in 1658, out of lands which once belonged to the priory of Haddington. It measures a little more than four Scotch acres. A small park, not quite an acre in extent, called the vicar's garden, and believed to have belonged to that official, is also attached to the living; and in 1799 a field of nearly three acres was obtained as a grass glebe in exchange for seven and a half acres of the links of Sauchope, which were designed by the presbytery. For property-tax the manse and glebe are valued at L. 64 per annum.

The stipend, as settled in 1834, is 152 bolls of meal, 110 quarters, 5 bushels, 1 peck, 1 gallon, 1½ quart of barley, and L.8, 6s. 8d. for communion elements.

*Ministers of the Parish.*—Upon the elevation of Mr Sharp to the archbishopric of St Andrews, Dr Alexander Edwards, minister of Denino, was transported to the charge in 1662, and continued to discharge the duties of it till his death, 10th May 1684. Dr Edwards was succeeded by Mr Alexander Lesly, minister of Ceres,\* who was deposed in 1689 for non-conformity. He was

\* The following extract from the record of the kirk-session shows the mode of procedure in those days:—"September 14th 1684. Dr John Wood, minister of Kilrennie, did preach, and Mr Alexander Lesly, minister of Ceres, being presented to



the last Episcopal rector of the parish. After his ejection he got a chapel erected at the west end of the town, part of which still remains as a wright's shop, behind the gas work, in which he continued to officiate till his death in 1707. Mr William Hardie was then ordained minister of Crail by the presbyteries of St Andrews and Cupar—the session record says, “by preaching, prayer, and imposition of the hands of the presbyteries—by delivering to him the Bible, the bell tow, and the key of the kirk.” Mr Hardie removed to St Andrews in 1701. Mr Robert Fairweather, minister of Carnbee, was then elected by the people 14th August 1701, was inducted by the presbytery, and continued till his death in 1738. But Mr Fairweather having become old and infirm, Mr Patrick Glas was ordained as his assistant and successor, 24th December 1734, and continued to be minister of the parish till 1787. After his death Mr Robert Glendinning succeeded, but lived only a short time. Mr Andrew Bell was ordained 6th May 1790, and dying in 1828, was succeeded by the present incumbent.

*Education.*—In 1542, a grammar school was established here by Mr David Bowman, one of the prebendaries of the college, who mortified a house and lands for the maintenance of the teacher, and left the patronage, after his death, to the town-council of the burgh, unless a qualified person of his own name should apply, who was to be preferred.\* How this provision came to be alienated from its purpose, we have been unable to discover; but, from time immemorial, the sum of L.12 a-year has been paid to the teacher out of the town's common good. In 1821, the heritors and council agreed to erect it into a parochial school, the former paying the maximum salary to the rector, the latter continuing their L.12 payment, under certain conditions, to an

the cure and benefice of this parish by Thomas Moncrieff of that ilk, as undoubted patron of this kirk, and having a right thereto from the Earl of Crawford, there was an edict granted by John Bishop of Edinburgh, vicar-general of the see of St Andrews, (being in the vacancie of the see of St Andrew's,) in his favour, which was served and read this day in face of the congregation by the said Dr John Wood, and is to be called at the Trinitie church of St Andrews upon Wednesday come eight days next, at ten o'clock.”

\* See deed of endowment and mortification in the town's charter-chest. As connected with the church, schools, and records, it may be mentioned here, that Mr John Preston of Drumrack, a branch of the Airdrie family of that name, presented to the church the handsome silver basin and ewer used at baptism; that the Earl of Crawford, out of the vacant stipend of 1789, gave the session L.20 for education, which is mortified in the town's hand at five per cent.; and that a lady, who wished her name to be concealed, gave, through the late Mr Bell, L.50 for the same purpose, which is now lying at bank interest.

usher. The rector, therefore, has the maximum salary, and the fees average about L.40 a-year. He is also kirk-treasurer and session-clerk. At this school, all the ordinary branches of education are taught, and frequently the higher branches of mathematics, with Greek and Latin, French and Italian. The number attending is 93.

There are other three schools in the parish, two of them being within the burgh, and one upon Kingsmuir, at all of which the ordinary branches are taught. One of the burgh teachers has a free school, and a small salary allowed him by the town; the other is upon his own adventure. At the two, there are about 190 scholars. The Kingsmuir school was erected by subscription in 1843, and is attended by about 50 children.

In both the endowed schools the teachers are bound to educate a certain number gratuitously, and thus there are none above six years of age who do not at least know the letters.

*Poor.*—The kirk session funds arise from the rent of about six acres of land, rents of seats in the church given by some of the heritors, dues upon marriages when the bride is in the parish, collections at the church doors, and some small feu-duties. Last year the number of poor upon the roll was thirty-one, who each received from a shilling to two shillings and sixpence a-week according to their circumstances—some received assistance in paying their rents—every applicant received clothing, and in many cases persons not upon the roll received assistance in money. Two persons were also maintained in a lunatic asylum, and the deficiency in the session's funds was made up by a voluntary assessment among the heritors. Besides what was bestowed by the session, the interest arising from a share of the Bank of Scotland's stock, bequeathed by the late Mrs Coldstream, was divided among sixteen, in terms of her deed, and ninety persons received a cart load of coals each by voluntary subscription.

The poor here are better provided for, on the whole, than they are in most places.

*May 1845.*



# PARISH OF KILRENNY.

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE DICKSON, MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, Boundaries, &c.*—THE name of this parish, as found in old manuscripts, is variously spelt, as *Cilrinnie*, *Kylrinnye*, *Kilriny*, &c. In the former Statistical Account it is spelt Kilrenney, while the general spelling at present is Kilrenny. It has been stated in Swan's Views of Fife that "the name is derived from St Ninian, and that as Ninian is still popularized into Ringan, so Kilringan could easily be corrupted into Kilrenny." The more probable derivation, however, is that given in the former Statistical Account. "The name of this parish seems to be derived from the saint to whom the church was dedicated, viz. St Irenaeus, Bishop of Lyons, whose fame for piety was at that time great throughout Christendom. What serves to confirm this origin of the name is, that the fishermen, who have marked out the steeple of this church for a meath or mark to direct them at sea, call it St Irnie to this day; and the estate which lies close by the church is called Irniehill; but, by the transposition of the letter i, Rinnie-Hill. What adds to the probability of this interpretation, is a tradition still existing here, that the devotees at Anstruther, who could not see the church of Kilrenny till they travelled up the rising ground to what they called the Hill, then pulled off their bonnets, fell on their knees, crossed themselves, and prayed to St Irnie."

The figure of the parish may be described rather as rectangular than circular, and the extent of it is computed at about  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length, and nearly  $2\frac{1}{2}$  in breadth. It is bounded on the east by Crail; on the south by the Frith of Forth; on the west by East and West Anstruther and Carnbee; and on the north, by Carnbee and Crail. Being bounded by the sea on the south, the ground rises to the north, by a gentle acclivity, unbroken by any eminence deserving of notice; and presenting to the eye a fertile and highly cultivated slope. It is divided by hedges and dikes into a variety of enclosures, all of which are under the

plough, with the exception of about 10 or 12 acres of common, belonging to the towns of Kilrenny and Cellardyke, and lying in a state of nature, being partly covered with furze, and partly soured with water. There are also a few acres along the shore constantly kept in pasture, as they cannot be brought under the operation of the plough. There are likewise some acres under plantation, but not to any great extent.

All along the coast the shore is covered with large masses of sandstone blocks. The stratum of sandstone projects over another of shale or indurated clay; so that by the action of the water upon the clay, it has been gradually removed, and these masses of the superincumbent rock have thus been broken down.

There are some remarkable caves or coves, as they are sometimes called, situated in the eastern part of the parish and close by the shore. They are considerably above high water-mark, but the rocks, in their outward form, have every appearance of having been at one time under the action of water; while within the caves there are still further indications of such having been the case, by the rocks being drilled in many places by the Pholas. They stand at present several feet above high water-mark, and rise to the height of 30 or 40 feet. There are likewise to be seen in the interior of the caves, artificial cuttings and chiselled crosses, which indicate that at some period they have been used as the abode of men.

Some human bones were lately found, when removing a portion of earth from the interior of the caves; and a friend on hearing of this circumstance, has suggested the idea that they may have been the resort of the leper, or the hermit, or the persecuted in evil times.

It is highly probable that they would be resorted to by smugglers, at the period when smuggling was carried on to a very great extent in the East Neuk of Fife. They were at a later period used as the outhouses of a small farm; and they are still used as a place of shelter for cattle. There is no tradition regarding them, except that there is a communication below ground between them and the house of Barnsmuir, situated nearly half a mile from the shore, where it is said that a piper was heard playing beneath the hearth stone of the kitchen; but these days of delusion have passed away.

The temperature of the atmosphere along the coast is rather mild than otherwise, so that the snow in winter seldom remains



long undissolved, and from the extent to which draining has of late been carried, the climate may be represented as dry and healthy.

The diseases are such as are common to the district, and in the town of Cellardyke, where there is a great population closely crowded together, fever is often prevalent.

*Geology.*—The strata laid open along the shore exhibit the common coal formation of sandstone, limestone, clay ironstone, shale, and coal, and contain many interesting fossil remains. The direction and dip of the strata vary much. The usual dip is from  $20^{\circ}$  to  $25^{\circ}$ . About the west end of the parish, the direction in which the strata are found is towards the south, while, as you proceed eastward, it inclines towards the south-east. Along the shore are found clay ironstone balls with coprolites, and many specimens of the *Variolaria Ficoides* of Sternberg; and toward the east end of the parish, considerably within high water mark, are found in the sandstone strata, a number of fossil trees, projecting upwards at an angle of  $70^{\circ}$  to the height of several feet, and placed at distances from each other, as if growing in a forest.

In the limestone quarry at Cornceres, about half a mile inland, the dip of the stratum was found in the working to be almost perpendicular, while at other times it inclined to the north-east. This limestone resembles that of Burdiehouse, in the neighbourhood of Edinburgh, with similar fossil remains, such as fresh-water fish, plants, &c. In reference to this quarry, the Rev. Dr Anderson of Newburgh, who has long paid great attention to the subject of geology, thus writes in his *Geological Account of Fife*, published along with Swan's *Views of Fife*: "While these pages have been passing through the press, I have been successful in finding the fresh water, or bituminous limestone, in the south-eastern extremity of the county. I first met with it in the parish of Kilrenny on the shore, and likewise to the eastward about a mile, in the parish of Crail. It is wrought inland in both parishes, at Cornceres and at Sypsies. Here it lies in small trough-shaped basins, and is much disturbed by underlying dikes, which traverse in every direction the whole of this district. Along the shore the deposit is about six feet thick, and dips to the south-east at an angle of  $20^{\circ}$ . It rests upon a thin bed of coal of about one foot and a half in thickness."

"Scales, coprolites, and vegetable impressions are in the greatest profusion, and no doubt can be entertained, from its mineralogical characters, as well as its organic contents, of its being

a portion of the interesting deposit which ranges westward from Pettycur."

The soil in the parish varies considerably. Along the coast, although containing a strong mixture of clay, it is rich and productive, while in the higher parts, as it rests on strong clayey subsoil, it is more retentive of moisture, and, in wet seasons, less productive.

It is astonishing, however, to observe the vast change and consequent improvement which have taken place within the last few years, from the skill and enterprise which the tenants have displayed in draining their farms.

*Zoology*.—There are not many of the rarer animals to be found in this locality. In winter a great many birds flock to the shore which are not to be found in summer. Among the feathered tribe frequenting this locality may be mentioned pheasants, the golden plover, starling, and the golden-crested wren, though but rarely seen; while there is no lack of common birds.

In the woods of Innergelly, some of the deer species, (*Cervus capreolus*), have been observed, but they are not numerous. The most interesting class of animals, both as to number and importance, in an economical point of view, is the fish found in the Frith of Forth. The following are found in abundance: Cod, ling, haddock, skate, flounders, and halibut: turbot very rarely. Besides these, which are of great importance, as affording a cheap and wholesome diet, there is the dog-fish, which is very abundant at times, and very destructive to the haddocks when caught upon the line, but which is useful as affording a certain portion of oil, and still more so to the farmer, as a rich manure when formed into a compost with earth. There is also the cat-fish, which certainly has not a very seemly appearance, but is highly relished by some when dressed as fish and sauce. The shell-fish which are caught along the shore are the lobster, the parten, or common crab, the wilk, and the limpet. Of late great quantities of wilks have been gathered from the rocks and sent to the London market. There are no oysters or mussels to be found along the shore.

*Botany*.—As the parish does not rise to any great altitude above the level of the sea, the plants along the sea-side, and the *Algæ*, or plants growing among the rocks from low to high water level, are those which chiefly deserve notice. Of these the following



species may be mentioned, some of which are useful in medicine, and others in agriculture and domestic economy.

<i>Sedum anglicum</i>	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>	<i>Primula veris</i>
— <i>acre</i>	<i>Artemisia absinthium</i>	<i>Malva sylvestris</i>
<i>Arenaria marina</i>	<i>Plantago maritima</i>	<i>Poa maritima</i>
— <i>peplodes</i>	— <i>coronopus</i>	— <i>fluitans</i>
<i>Glaux maritima</i>	<i>Astragalus hypoglottis</i>	<i>Briza media</i>
<i>Statice armeria</i>	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	<i>Triticum junceum</i>
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	<i>Papaver Rhœas</i>	<i>Alopecurus geniculatus</i>
<i>Ligusticum scoticum</i>	<i>Cœnanthe crocata</i>	<i>Pbleum pratense</i>
<i>Chenopodium maritimum</i>	<i>Conium maculatum</i>	<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>
— <i>Bonus Hen-</i>	<i>Orchis mascula</i>	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>
<i>ricus</i>	— <i>maculata</i>	<i>Juncus compressus</i>
<i>Triglochin maritimum</i>	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	
<i>Cochlearia officinalis</i>	<i>Geranium pratense</i>	

### *Algæ.\**

<i>Fucus esculentus</i>	<i>Fucus canaliculatus</i>	<i>Fucus coccineus</i>
— <i>saccharinus</i>	— <i>siliquosus</i>	— <i>dentatus</i>
— <i>digitatus</i>	— <i>crispus</i>	— <i>pinnatifidus</i>
— <i>loreus</i>	— <i>mammilosus</i>	— <i>opuntia</i>
— <i>filum</i>	— <i>palmatus</i>	<i>Ulva lactuca</i>
— <i>vesiculosus</i>	— <i>sanguineus</i>	— <i>compressa</i>
— <i>nodosus</i>	— <i>alatus</i>	
— <i>serratus</i>	— <i>plumosus</i>	

There is but a small proportion of the land in the parish comparatively speaking, occupied with plantation, and that small portion is gradually diminishing. This may be partly accounted for by the proximity of the parish to the sea, and still more satisfactorily by the ground being so very valuable for the raising of grain crops. The only estates on which there is some extent of plantation, are Innergelly and Thirdpart, the latter of which consists chiefly of belts.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

From the local Reports of Commissioners of Municipal Corporations in Scotland in 1833, the following report is taken:—"Kilrenny, which consists of Upper and Nether Kilrennies, is not, strictly speaking, a royal burgh; it has no crown charter. In 1672 the magistrates of Kilrenny presented a supplication to Parliament, setting forth that it never was a royal burgh, and praying that it might no more be esteemed such, but continue a burgh of regality." This supplication was remitted to the Privy Council, and it appears from the minutes of Parliament that it was "or-

\* The synonyms of the *Algæ*, according to later botanists, corresponding to the Linnæan names given, may also here be adjoined. *Alaria esculenta*, *Laminaria saccharina*, *L. digitata*, *Himanthalia lorca*, *Chorda filum*, *Fucus vesiculosus*, *F. nodosus*, *F. serratus*, *F. canaliculatus*, *Halidrys siliquosa*, *Chondrus crispus*, *Ch. mammilosus*, *Rhodoménia palmata*, *Delesseria sanguinea*, *D. alata*, *Ptilota plumosa*, *Plocamium coccineum*, *Laurencia pinnatifida*, *Catenella opuntia*, *Ulva lactuca*, *Enteromorpha compressa*.

dered that the burgh of Kilrenny be expunged out of the rolls, the same being now no royal burgh by Act of Parliament."

"Kilrenny holds feu of a subject, Mr Bethune, one of whose predecessors represented the town in the meeting of Estates in 1689. It continued afterwards to send a representative to Parliament without being objected to, and was inadvertently classed by the Articles of the Union in a set of five burghs sending a representative to Parliament."

The same report states "that Nether Kilrenny has a harbour for fishing boats—for the improvement of which L. 1200 were advanced by the Board of Trustees for the improvement of fisheries, and L. 500 were raised by the town—which have been expended in building new quays; but they have not been judiciously placed, and the harbour is said to have been rather injured than improved by their erection."

"Kilrenny is in schedule F. of the Burgh Reform Act. By the old sett of the burgh the old council elected the new council. A change was, in 1819, made in the sett of the burgh. It was the practice formerly to elect the bailies from three leets, called first, second, and third magistrate's leets—one being chosen out of each leet; but in that year the classification was abolished, and the three bailies were chosen out of a general leet of nine persons, which change occasioned the disfranchisement of the burgh in 1828; and the town has ever since been under the management of managers appointed by the Court of Session, as is usual in such cases, till the constitution of the burgh is restored, or a new one granted.

The harbour of Cellardyke is in all the charters designated Skin-fast haven.

*Eminent Men.*—James Melville, nephew of the famous Andrew Melville, was appointed minister of the parish in 1586. Sir James Lumsdaine of Innergelly was a major-general under Gustavus Adolphus, King of Sweden. He afterwards served in the Scottish army, and was taken prisoner by Cromwell at the battle of Dunbar.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are Sir Windham Carmichael Anstruther, of Anstruther and Carmichael, Bart.; Robert Anstruther, Esq. of Thirdpart; the Rev. Edwin Sandys Lumsdaine of Innergelly; Andrew Johnston, Esq. of Rennyhill; Lord William R. K. Douglas of Denino; Mrs Drinkwater Bethune of Balfour, and Sir Thomas Erskine of Cambo, Bart. To



the great loss of the parish none of the land-owners are resident. The houses of Innergelly and Rennyhill are the only residences in the parish, but have not been occupied by their proprietors for two or three years. They are modern buildings, and afford good accommodation.

*Parochial Registers.*—The oldest parochial register is dated 1586, and commences about the time when James Melville entered on the work of the ministry at Kilrenny. The registers appear to have been pretty correctly kept; but some of them are so tarnished and chafed as to render dates often uncertain and the reading imperfect. About 1580, and several years afterwards, one minister, William Clarke, and after him James Melville, had the superintendence of West Anstruther, Pittenweem, Abercrombie, and Kilrenny, officiating at each in rotation, the parishes having their respective kirk-sessions; and when, on any particular occasion, they met in a body, it was called the Assembly; but their transactions were marked in the same book. Latterly, and for a considerable period, they have been kept with great accuracy.

*Antiquities.*—On a slightly elevated portion of ground to the west of the village of Kilrenny, there is an upright stone with some rude engraving somewhat resembling the mariner's compass, called Skeith, or Skeigh, or Scáthe stone; but there is no satisfactory tradition concerning it. It may possibly have been erected to commemorate some conflict which took place during the invasion of the East Neuk by the Danes. There is another upright stone on the farm of East Pitcorthie, about five or six feet above ground, but when or on what occasion erected is not known. It bears no date and no characters, and there is no tradition concerning it.

There is another eminence to the eastward of the village, which is called Capelochy Castle, near to the shore. And it has been conjectured from the appearance of the low land on the north side, bearing marks of having been under water, that the eminence, at one time, had been surrounded by water, and hence its name, Capelochy Castle.

There is a farm adjoining, which bears the name of Caiplie, which is probably a corruption of Capelochy. The ground which the castle occupied is now under the plough, and very lately an immense quantity of stones were dug up, and among them was

found, not exactly a stone coffin, but stones set upon edge, within which some human bones were discovered.

The old house of Thirdpart, now demolished, was long the family residence of the Scots of Scotstarvet; and Newbarns or Westbarns, in the adjoining parish of Crail, was the seat of the Cunninghams; in this locality is laid the scene of Drummond of Hawthornden's humorous poem, entitled Polemo-Middinia.

### III.—POPULATION.

Amount of population in 1790,	1086
1801,	1043
1811,	1233
1821,	1494
1831,	1705
1841,	2039

In 1836 there were 58 births, 15 marriages, 23 deaths in the parish.

1837	57	9	54
1838	55	11	37
1839	51	26	28
1840	53	26	42
1841	66	20	39
1842	53	27	50

Total in seven years	393	134	273
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Yearly average for seven years	56	19	39
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In 1790 the population of the parish, as taken by the Rev. Mr Beat, was 261 families, 1086 inhabitants.

In 1841, according to the census taken by Mr Bonthron, schoolmaster,

	Inhabited Houses.	Families.	Males.	Females.	Total number of persons.
There were in Kilrenny,	47	58	101	132	233
Cellardyke,	197	318	690	796	1486
Landward,	67	69	161	159	320
In the whole parish,	311	445	952	1087	2039

There were 4 houses building in the parish

14 uninhabited houses

156 persons employed in agriculture

97 persons employed in handicraft

282 fishermen and sailors

64 female servants

38 independent individuals

	In Kilrenny.	Cellardyke.	Landward.	Total.
There were under 7 years of age	51	322	66	439
between 7 and 15	40	291	62	393
15 and 30	46	363	90	499
30 and 50	48	322	75	445
50 and 70	38	145	25	208
above 70	10	43	2	55
Total	233	1486	320	2039



## IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The number of acres in the parish may be estimated at about 2400, the greater proportion of which is under the plough, and in a high state of cultivation. There may be from twenty to thirty acres which do not seem at any time to have been cultivated, but remain partly in pasture and partly in a state of nature. For a very considerable number of years, a regular system of rotation in farming has been followed, and varies upon different farms. A five, or six, or seven years' shift is the rotation generally adopted; and the principal crops are, wheat, beans, barley, oats, hay or pasture, potatoes, and turnip. Along the coast the land is richer and more productive; but, taking the whole parish, the average produce of an acre may be estimated at 8 bolls for wheat and beans, and for oats and barley, from 6 to 7 bolls. There is comparatively little of the land in pasture, as the farmers think it more advantageous to take parks in the higher parts of the neighbouring parishes for rearing their young stock. A vast improvement has of late taken place, in consequence of the great extent to which draining has been carried. This is effected sometimes with stones and sometimes with tiles; but, in both cases, the beneficial effects are speedily made manifest. The average rent per acre may be about L.2, 10s.

*Live-stock.*—There are few sheep kept in the parish, and the prevailing breed of cattle is what is called the Fife breed.

*Leases.*—Leases are generally granted for nineteen years, and the farmers being possessed both of capital and intelligence, are ever ready to adopt the most improved implements of husbandry, and any new suggestion with regard to the mode of culture. The great proportion of the steadings are ample and commodious, with excellent dwelling-houses for the tenants.

*Wages.*—The wages of masons, carpenters, &c. range about 2s. 6d. per day, while the day-labourer earns from 1s. 4d. to 1s. 6d.; and the women, who are generally employed during the summer in hoeing, &c., receive 8d. per day, and during harvest, they are allowed from L.1, 10s. to L.1, 15s., with dinner, which consists of beer and bread, with a lippy of meal for their supper.

Limestone, with thin seams of coal, has for a long period been wrought upon the estates of Innergelly and Thirdpart; and ironstone has also been found along the shore within high water mark. The best freestone quarry for building purposes is to be

found on the farm of Blacklaws, belonging to Mrs Drinkwater Bethune.

*Fisheries.*—The fishery in Cellardyke is carried on to a very great extent. The fishermen are active, hardy, and enterprising, and prosecute their lawful employment oftentimes under circumstances of great danger. There are about 100 large boats, varying in tonnage from 13 to 18 tons, employed during the summer season in the herring fishery, each of these being manned with three or four regular fishermen and one or two halfdealsmen, as they are called, who have no nets, but merely assist in rowing, and hauling the nets; or if they have not the full complement of men, two or three strong boys are sometimes taken. It was the usual practice for the whole of the fishermen to go to Peterhead and Wick to prosecute the fishing, without a single boat being left to try if herring could be got in the Frith of Forth; but in 1837 or 1838 some of the fishermen remained at home, and were very successful; and since that period a great number of boats have been employed at home with various success, and during some seasons, have been more successful than those which went to the north. At times the boats were brought into the harbour with from forty to eighty crans; but when the herrings are so abundant, the fishery continues only for a few days. When the fishermen get 200 crans, they account such a fair fishing, but many do not attain to that number. During a successful fishing season lately, one or two boats got about 400 crans or barrels, and it is believed that one caught the extraordinary number of 500 crans. Their agreement with the curers is generally from 9s. to 11s. per cran, with a certain allowance of whisky. It is not, however, all gain that is made by the fishing, as it is attended with a very considerable expense. The boats, when thoroughly fitted for going to sea at first, cost about L.100, and require a considerable sum to keep them in repair; while the nets, when ready for use, cost about L.5 each, and the number taken by each boat varies from fourteen to twenty. The herring fishing is prosecuted for a short time in winter during the months of January and February, and in autumn during the months of August and September. The other months are occupied by the fishermen in prosecuting the white fishing, when 28 or 30 boats go regularly to sea every morning if the weather permits, and proceed oftentimes to the distance of 40 or 50 miles in search of fish. The boats in these cases are manned with eight men each, and while each man furnishes a certain portion of line, with the necessary hooks



attached, the produce is equally divided among the fishermen, the owner of the boat being entitled to a double share. In this mode of fishing a considerable expense is also incurred, both in the purchase of mussels for bait, which are generally brought from the Eden, beyond St Andrews, and also by the frequent loss of their fishing tackle. In summer, the fish are generally taken to Fisherrow and Newhaven, or to Dundee and Perth; and in winter they are generally brought into the harbour and sold to the fish-curers, or to the cadgers, who cart them to a great distance, and dispose of them in the different towns through which they pass. The fish-curers smoke the haddocks and pickle the cod which they purchase, and send them to the Glasgow, Liverpool, and London markets. Besides the fishermen who are engaged in the fishing, the means of subsistence are afforded to a number of other individuals, such as coopers, carters, and women who are employed in cleaning and curing the fish. It would be difficult to ascertain the amount of money which is brought in from the deep in the course of the year; but estimating each fishing boat at 120 crans on an average in ordinary years, the sum realized, at 10s. per cran, would amount to L.6000, besides the profits arising from the take of cod and haddocks, &c. during the summer season, which is very considerable; but when the expense of keeping up their lines and the payment of their bait are taken into consideration, these apparent gains are much diminished. A cart load of mussels brought from the Eden costs from 20s. to 22s., and the lines which are employed in fishing by each fisherman extend to 1800 feet in winter, and double that length in summer, so that when the whole or even a portion of the line is lost, a considerable sum is necessary to repair the deficiency.

Many of the fishermen are in respectable circumstances, and careful in the management of their substance, but it is matter of deep regret that the same cannot be said of all of them.

Mrs D. Bethune, as the superior, is entitled to every fourteenth fish of the different kinds, with the exception of herring, of which she has a right to every eighteenth; but instead of exacting the rent in fish, an agreement has been entered into with the fishermen, by which they consent, in lieu of the fish, to pay L.40 annually.

As the harbour is intended merely for fishing boats, no ships or foreign vessels are allowed to enter it.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

Cellardyke is the only town in the parish, and Kilrenny the

only village, but there is no market held in either of them. East Anstruther adjoining Cellardyke, and about a mile west from Kilrenny, is the place where the nearest market is held, and where the post-office is situated. The road along the coast from Anstruther to Crail passes through the parish, extending upwards of three miles; and the road from Anstruther to St Andrews intersects the parish in a different direction, to the extent of two and a-half miles. Besides these turnpike roads there may be two or three miles of statute labour roads.

*Ecclesiastical State and Education.*—The old church was of much larger dimensions than the present, being 100 feet by 50 over the walls, and having the roof supported by two rows of Gothic arches and round pillars. The time of its erection is not known. It has been stated by some of the older inhabitants of the parish, that on one of its arches was cut a Lochaber axe, and on a stone on the west gable outside, was the figure of a sheep, as forming part of a coat of arms. Having, upon inspection in 1806, been found in a dangerous state, it was taken down, and a plain commodious building erected on the same site, capable of accommodating about 800 sitters, but, in consequence of the rapid increase of the population, it should have been enlarged. Adjoining the church is an excellent school-room, to which a considerable addition has lately been made, and a comfortable dwelling-house at the same time built for the accommodation of the schoolmaster. Both kirk and school are so placed, as to be convenient for the country part of the population; but, as the great bulk of the inhabitants is in Cellardyke, it would have been desirable to have had them put down nearer to that locality.

It appears that William Comyn, Earl of Buchan, with consent of his countess, confirmed the grant of the church of Kilrenny in Fife to the monks of Dryburgh, which had been made by the Countess Ada, the mother of Malcolm the Fourth and William the Lion. The parish church is situated in the village of Kilrenny, its distance from the extremities of the parish being about two miles. It was built, as has already been mentioned, in 1806, and is at present in a good state of repair. The patronage is in the possession of Sir Windham C. Anstruther, Bart. The manse was built in 1819, and is also in a good state of repair. The extent of the glebe is about eleven acres, and is valued about L.27. The stipend is 136 bolls of meal and the same of barley, with L.10 of communion element money.



The great bulk of the population attend the Established Church with the exception of some Dissenters, not amounting to a hundred. The average number of communicants for several years past has been upwards of 620.

*Education.*—There is one parochial school. There are also a female and an infant school, mostly supported by the school fees and partly by subscription. There are other two schools upon the teachers' own adventure. The female teacher assembles a class every Sunday morning for religious instruction, and a Sabbath school is taught in the evening, which is numerously attended by both boys and girls. The branches of instruction generally taught in the parish school, are, English, English grammar, writing, arithmetic, geography, French, Latin, mathematics, and navigation. The salary of the schoolmaster is the maximum, and the school fees are 2s. 6d. for English, 3s. 6d. for arithmetic, and 5s. for Latin, &c. per quarter.

The house occupied by the teacher has more than the legal accommodation, but the garden ground being deficient, an allowance is granted by the heritors. The people in general being alive to the benefits of education, it is believed that there are comparatively few who cannot read or write.

The only circulating library in the parish is one connected with the Sabbath school, which consists of religious publications.

Several Societies at one time existed in the parish, but they are mostly broken up, with the exception of one which the fishermen maintain for the support of the aged, and widows and children; and another which a few benevolent individuals some years ago organised, for administering a little relief to aged females.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The funds for the support of the poor are procured from church collections, seat rents, interest of money, &c. and voluntary assessment on the heritors. The average number of poor on the roll for the years 1840, 1841, and 1842, is 15; average expense of their maintenance per year, L.97, 0s. 3d.; average sum expended yearly on the occasional poor, L.19, 7s. 9d.; total yearly expense of maintaining the poor, L.116, 8s., including two lunatics.

The average amount of church collections for 1840, 1841, and 1842, is L.29, 18s. 6d.; Do. seat rents for each of these years, L.31, 11s. 8d.; Do. interest of money, &c. yearly, L.5, 5s.; Do. voluntary assessment yearly, L.49, 12s. 10d.; amount of contributions for relief of the poor yearly, L.116, 8s.

*Inns, &c.*—The number of houses licensed for retailing spirits are, in Cellardyke, fourteen, and in Kilrenny, one. There are, besides, several other houses licensed only to retail porter, ale, and beer.

*Fuel.*—Coal is the only fuel which is used in the parish. It is procured from coal-works in the parishes of Carnbee and Elie, a distance of from five to seven miles. The coal which is found in the parish is of inferior quality, and used only for burning limestone. A considerable portion is also brought by sea from the coal-works along the Frith, and also from Newcastle, but at a greater expense.

May 1843.

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## PARISH OF PITTENWEEM.\*

PRESBYTERY OF ST ANDREWS, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JOHN COOPER, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries.*—THE name of the parish was most probably derived from a large cave anciently called *weem*, which is situated near where the town is now built, as also from coal-pits having been early wrought in the same locality.

Whether Pittenweem originally was a parish or not is uncertain. The parish extends from east to west about a mile and a half, and is half a mile in breadth. It is bounded by the parish of Anstruther Wester on the east, by the same and Carnbee on the north, and by St Monance on the west. The Frith of Forth bounds it on the south. The grounds in the parish are flat. The soil is in general a black loam, and very fertile; producing heavy crops of wheat and barley.

*Geology.*—This parish forms part of the coal-field of Fife. The mountain limestone, constituting the lowest bed of the formation, is here seen to crop out on the surface to the west of the town, and above this are workable seams of coal. The intrusion of trap rocks has formed an anticlinal axis, so that the seams of

\* Furnished by W. R.



coal dip in two directions. The precise period when coal began to be worked in the pits here cannot be ascertained. The tradition is, that a pit was opened by order of Oliver Cromwell, who took possession of the Earl of Kelly's estate, of which it then formed a part, and this old working still goes under the name of Cromwell's Pit. After the working had been long discontinued, it was recommenced by the proprietor, Sir John Anstruther, about the year 1770 on a large scale, and still continues. An extensive salt manufactory was also established by the same active proprietor; but this has been long ago given up.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Burgh.*—The burgh of Pittenweem consists of a street extending from east to west, with the parish church at the east end,—a street which fronts the harbour, and another of more recent erection running parallel to those on the line of the county road. Several lanes connect these streets from north to south. The houses, both of the old and new parts of the town, are substantial and neatly built. There are several excellent shops well filled with merchandise, and the whole place exhibits an air of cleanliness, comfort, and respectability.

The burgh was at first a burgh of barony, holding of the priors of the Priory of Pittenweem, but, in 1542, by a charter of James V. granted in favour of John, then prior, it was erected into a royal burgh, and, in 1547, the prior and convent granted to the “provost, bailies, council, community, burgesses, and inhabitants, the burgh as the same was builded, or to have been builded, and the harbour thereof, and all moors, mosses, and waste ground, common ways, and other commonties, liberties, customs, anchorages, &c. belonging thereto.” In 1593, a charter was also granted by James VI. to the town “of that great house or lodging of the Monastery of Pittenweem.” These charters were all ratified and confirmed by act of Parliament in June 1633.

In 1651, King James VI. passed through the burgh, and slept a night at Anstruther House. On this occasion his Majesty was received by the bailies, and council, and minister “in their best apparel,” and with them twenty-four of the ablest men in their “best apparel, with partizans, and other twenty-four with musquets.” A table was spread at “Robert Smith's yeet,” and the King and his followers regaled with “sundrie great bunnis of fine flour and other wheat bread of the best order, baken with sugar, cannell, and other spices fitting, as also ten gallons of ale, with Canary,

sack, Rhenish wine, Tent, white, and claret wines. A discharge of "thirty-six cannon, all shot at once," announced the departure of the royal guest.

One of the vessels belonging to the Spanish Armada was driven to this coast in great distress, and put into the harbour of Anstruther Easter, where the people were hospitably treated.

In 1779, the inhabitants of the burgh were alarmed by the appearance of the celebrated Paul Jones, whose small squadron lay off the harbour, for several hours, about half a mile from the shore. A pilot who went off, on the supposition that the ships were British, was detained, and treated very uncivilly, nor was he set at liberty till after the engagement which Paul Jones had with the British fleet.

The Priory of Pittenweem was founded for canons-regular, who were first introduced into Scotland about the year 1114. It belonged to the Priory of St Andrews, and had considerable landed property, the Isle of May belonging to it, besides the churches of Anstruther Wester, Rhynd, and others. John Rowle, prior of Pittenweem, was one of the Lords of Session. His name first appears in the Sederunt Book, 5th November 1544. In March 1542, he had been one of the Lords for discussing of domes, and in March 1544 he appears as one of the Lords of the Articles. In 1550 he accompanied the Regent Murray to France and died in 1553. In 1583, William Stewart, a captain in the King's Guard, descended from Alan Stewart of Darnley, obtained a charter of the priory and lands of Pittenweem, and was afterwards styled Commendator of the same. In 1806, the lands and baronies belonging to the priory were erected into a temporal lordship in favour of Frederick Stewart, his son, who had farther charters in 1609 and 1618. He died, as is supposed, without issue, and the title has never since been claimed. Previous to his death he disposed the lordship to Thomas Earl of Kellie, who, with consent of his son, Alexander Lord Fenton, surrendered the superiority of the same into the hands of the King. A considerable portion of the buildings of the priory is still standing and inhabited. The prior's house is now the property and the residence of the Right Rev. David Low, LL. D., Bishop of the Scottish Episcopal United Diocese of Ross and Argyle. The walls of the precinct are still entire, and with the other buildings serve to indicate the original extent of the priory and its domains.



A little below the priory, in the direction of the sea beach, is a large cave with two apartments, in the inner of which is a well of excellent water. Where the two apartments join, there is a stone stair, which led up to a subterranean passage that communicated with the priory by another stair. The two stairs still are to be seen, but the passage, which must have been about fifty yards in length, has been obliterated by the falling down of the superincumbent earth.

The burgh is now governed by a chief magistrate, three bailies, nineteen councillors, a treasurer, and clerk; the latter acting as assessor to the magistrates. They have the usual legal jurisdiction of other burghs, but few cases come before them. There is no guildry or incorporated trades. The property of the burgh consists of lands, mills, slaughter-houses, and byres; ship-building yard, cellar, and shed; shares in a granary, washing-house, and bleaching-green; seats in parish church; harbour, petty customs, shore, boom, and crane dues; ironstone on the sea shore, sea-ware; stances for curing herrings, feu-duties, and ground annuals. The income is variable: for the year ending October 1839, it was L.466, 4s. 2d. Sterling, besides considerable arrears owing to the town and money in bank. The debt owing by the town was at the same period L.1200 Sterling, but the expenditure is considerably within the income. The harbour is much exposed to south-east winds, but much attention is paid to its improvement by the magistrates.

Dr Douglas, Bishop of Salisbury, was born and received the rudiments of his education in this burgh, where his father was a resident merchant.

### III.—POPULATION.

The population in 1755 was	939
1801, -	1072
1831, -	1317
1841, -	1349

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

In former times a considerable trade was carried on here. In 1639 the ships belonging to the port consisted of thirteen sail of large vessels, besides fishing boats. Many of these were, however, lost or taken by the enemy, and the trade afterwards declined. Kelp was at one time manufactured on the shores, but that business has been also given up.

At present a considerable trade is carried on in herring fishing and curing, and white fishing. A few sloops and schooners be-

long to the town, and a considerable number of fishing boats; but as Anstruther Easter has a better harbour, the shipping is chiefly connected with that port.

There are grain mills belonging to the town, but which are let out to a tenant. At one period there were no less than thirty breweries in the burgh, but at present there is only one.

*Rental.*—The valued rent of the parish is L.2452 Scots. The annual value of real property in 1815 was L.1712 Sterling, of which L.1127 was assessed on the burgh, and L.585 Sterling on the landward part of the parish.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The patron is Sir W. C. Anstruther, Bart. The stipend is L.166, 1s. 10d. The yearly value of the glebe is L.12, 12s. The church is apparently of a very old date, and is supposed to have formed part of a priory which formerly existed here.

*Education.*—The parochial schoolmaster has a school-house, dwelling-house, and garden; the salary is the maximum. The average number of scholars is ninety.

There is, besides, an unendowed school, at which there may be about the same number of pupils; and a female school, supported merely by subscription, with an attendance of from sixty to eighty pupils.

*July 1845.*



## COUNTY OF FIFE.

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THIS county is bounded by the Frith of Tay on the north; by the German Ocean on the east; by the Firth of Forth on the south; and by parts of Kinross, Perth, and Clackmannan on the west. Its greatest length is about 50 miles, and its greatest breadth about 20 miles; medium length 36 miles. Its area contains about 504 square miles, or 322,560 English acres. The annual value of real property, as assessed in April 1815, amounted to L.405,770 Sterling. The population in 1831 was 128,839, and in 1841 140,310.

TABLE.—Showing the Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the County of Fife.

Parishes.	Ecclesiastical State.					Parochial Schoolmasters' Emoluments.				Annual amount of Contributions to Poor.				
	Population in 1881.	Families Estab. Ch.	Individuals Do.	Families Dissenters.	Individuals Do.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.	Schools.	Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From assessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors.	From Church collections.	From Alms, Legacies, Mortcloths.	Total.
Cupar.	6758	247	...	...	...	18 ch. m. & bar.	...	L.34 4 0	See text.	...	L.326 9 0	L.43 0 0	...	L.369 9 0
Collessie.	1346	247	...	...	...	15 chalders do.	3	L.34 4 0	L.23 0 0	L.57 0 0	58 0 0	...	...	...
Monimail.	1162	238	1057	31	162	16 chalders do.	5	34 4 0	...	70 0 0	...	...	85 0 0	...
Abdie.	1508	100	...	...	...	15 chalders do.	1	34 4 0	...	50 0 0	...	...	...	50 0 0
Newburgh.	2897	...	1656	...	1008	15 chalders do.	7	34 4 0	30 0 0	64 0 0	...	L.90 0 0	19 17 4	109 17 4
F. P. on Craig.	1741	360	...	50	...	Minimum.	3	30 0 0	22 0 0	...	...	55 0 0	...	...
Kingsbarns.	968	...	...	...	...	14 ch. 5 bolls.	2	34 0 0	45 0 0	...	See text.	24 19 3	20 3 1	85 0 0
King's Kettle.	2312	...	...	...	...	15 ch. m. & bar.	1	34 4 0	...	70 0 0	100 0 0	30 0 0	...	130 0 0
Leslie.	3625	270	1736	183	1098	L.257, 8s. 6d.	6	34 0 0	18 0 0	52 0 0	...	...	...	131 19 0
Newburn.	419	...	...	...	...	L.200.	6	29 18 10	14 0 0	43 0 0	...	...	...	98 16 0
Dysart.	7591	...	2509	...	709	17½ chalders.	14	...	43 0 0	...	200 0 0	90 0 0	...	130 0 0
Abbotshall.	4811	...	...	...	...	13½ chalders.	6	34 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	36 0 0
Auchterderran.	1913	...	...	...	...	L.300.	3	34 4 0	...	64 4 0	...	11 0 0	...	...
Beath.	973	...	...	...	200	Minimum.	1	34 4 0	30 0 0	...	...	...	...	40 0 0
Dalgely.	1265	...	...	...	...	15 chalders.	2	34 4 0	...	68 4 0	...	...	...	72 0 0
Kinglassie.	1155	...	...	...	...	15 chalders.	1	34 4 0	34 0 0	49 4 0	...	...	18 0 0	30 0 0
Dunbog.	219	...	...	...	...	14 chalders.	1	34 4 0	15 0 0	54 4 0	...	12 0 0	...	75 0 0
Leuchars.	1901	...	...	...	70	16 chalders.	4	34 4 0	20 0 0	104 4 0	...	...	20 0 0	...
Inverkeithing.	2530	...	...	...	...	17 chalders.	7	34 4 0	70 0 0	...	110 0 0	...	...	...
Auchtertool.	530	92	...	...	23	L.150.	3	29 18 10	...	...	...	12 14 0	...	18 16 4
Scoonie.	2836	384	1751	156	827	17 chalders.	5	36 0 0	70 0 0	106 0 0	...	62 17 6	...	219 14 1
Elie.	907	...	...	...	...	Minimum.	3	34 4 0	40 0 0	74 4 0	...	30 0 0	...	80 0 0
Anstruther E.	997	...	...	33	...	L.200.	1	5 6 8	...	...	...	...	34 10 0	...
						176 b. oats & 28 bolls meal.								
Cameron.	1167	240	...	12	...	L.30.	1	34 4 0	10 0 0	44 4 0	...	17 12 0	7 2 0	...



TABLE.—Showing the Ecclesiastical State, &c. of Parishes in the County of Fife—*Continued.*

County of Argyll and Bute in the County of Fife—Continued.

Parishes.	Population in 1831.	Ecclesiastical State.				Parochial Schoolmasters' Emoluments.				Annual amount of Contributions to Poor.				
		Families Estab. Ch.	Individuals Do.	Families Dissenters.	Individuals Do.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.	Schools.	Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From assessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors.	From Church collections.	From Alms, Legacies, Mortcloths.	Total.
Kilconquhar,	2605	...	2300	...	361	17 chalders.	6	L.34 4 0	L.30 0 0	L.64 4 0	L.52 3 0	L.66 14 0	...	L.146 0 0
Abercrombie,	1157	...	...	...	...	Minimum.	2	34 4 0	...	60 0 0	...	...	...	90 5 0
Dunino,	471	...	...	...	...	L.260.	...	Minimum.	...	74 4 0	...	...	...	15 13 0
Kennoway,	2044	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	3	34 4 0	40 0 0	...	31 0 0	34 0 0	L.5 0 0	77 0 0
Wemyss,	5403	...	...	...	...	17 chalders.	7	34 4 0	25 0 0	59 4 0	60 0 0	...	...	120 0 0
Burntisland,	2210	330	...	270	...	L.190.	7	37 0 0	...	...	50 0 0	65 0 0	...	...
Logie,	419	...	...	...	30	{ 115 b. grain. L.82, 12s.	1	34 4 0	20 0 0	54 4 0	20 0 0	18 0 0	...	...
Largo,	2751	350	...	200	...	136 m. 136 bar.	4	34 4 0	20 0 0	54 4 0	150 0 0	36 0 0	...	...
Ballingry,	436	53	...	16	...	L.209, 14s 10d	1	34 4 0	7 0 0	41 4 0	...	...	3 0 0	28 0 0
St Andrews	6017	...	2490	...	697	{ 1st charge, 28½ chalders, 2d do. min.	See text.	...	...	...	...	218 4 2	...	417 0 0
St Leonards,	554	...	...	...	53	Minimum.	...	...	...	...	...	47 15 8	...	78 0 0
Forgan,	1219	...	...	...	...	15 ch. 6 bolls.	2	34 4 0	24 0 0	58 4 0	...	...	...	...
Ceres,	2944	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	5	34 4 0	65 0 0	99 4 0	...	60 0 0	...	...
Kilmany,	659	80	...	...	...	{ 232 b. b. & m. 8 bolls wheat.	3	...	20 0 0	...	...	...	...	23 11 5
Culter,	889	150	...	47	...	L.150.	1	34 4 0	30 0 0	64 4 0	...	12 0 0	...	50 0 0
Balmerino,	993	195	...	20	...	16 ch. 7 bolls.	2	34 4 0	30 0 0	64 4 0	20 0 0	18 0 0	...	...
Flisk,	270	...	...	...	...	Minimum.	1	34 4 0	12 0 0	46 4 0	...	6 12 0	...	10 0 0
Anstruther, W.	449	...	...	...	...	Minimum.	1	34 4 0	70 0 0	104 4 0	...	...	9 0 0	...
Greich,	430	...	...	...	...	{ L.209, 15s. 18 bolls vict.	1	34 4 0	18 0 0	52 4 0	...	12 1 6	20 5 0	36 2 0

TABLE.—Showing the Ecclesiastical State, &amp;c. of Parishes in the County of Fife—Continued.

Parishes.	Population in 1831.	Ecclesiastical State.				Parochial Schoolmasters' Emoluments.				Annual amount of Contributions to Poor.				
		Families.	Estab. Ch.	Individuals	Do.	Amount of Parochial Ministers' stipend.	Schools.	Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From as- sessment or voluntary contrib. by Heritors.	From Church col- lections.	From Alms, Legacies, Mortcloths.	Total.
Markinch, .	2965	1079	...	...	...	18 chalders.	9	L. 34 4 0	...	L. 121 14 0	...	L. 50 0 0	...	L. 36 0 0
Carnock, .	1270	127	652	...	598	Minimum.	2	34 4 0	...	...	...	11 7 7	...	...
Aberdour, .	1916	357	...	...	...	{ 54 bolls gr. L. 109.	4	34 4 0	L. 30 0 0	64 4 0	L. 80 0 0	30 0 0	L. 18 8 7	...
Kemback, .	778	...	...	...	...	{ 91 bo. meal. 8 bolls bar. L. 20, 5s. 19 chalders.	2	34 4 0	16 0 0	50 4 0	11 10 0	17 3 5	10 0 0	38 13 5
Torryburn, .	1435	...	1332	...	16	{ 158 bolls grain. L. 55. 17 chalders.	3	34 4 0	46 0 0	80 4 0	150 11 5	36 4 9	1 15 8	188 11 10
Kirkcaldy, .	5275	...	...	...	...	19 chalders.	15	...	...	...	...	200 0 0	...	400 0 0
Dairsie, .	669	...	...	...	...	{ 158 bolls grain. L. 55. 17 chalders.	3	34 4 0	25 0 0	59 4 0	...	18 0 0	17 0 0	...
Strathmiglo, .	2187	...	1400	...	...	17 chalders.	5	34 4 0	...	...	...	20 0 0	29 0 0	...
Auchtermuchty	3356	375	...	...	...	{ 12 bolls gr. L. 117, 18s.	6	34 4 0	20 0 0	54 0 0	...	...	...	293 15 6
Moonzie, .	174	41	...	...	...	L. 150.	1	34 4 0	14 0 0	48 0 0	...	...	2 14 7	38 10 7
Saline, .	1057	...	...	...	...	17 chalders.	2	34 4 0	40 0 0	...	...	...	36 0 0	68 0 0
Kinghorn, .	2935	...	...	...	...	collegiate, 19 chalders each.	3	25 0 0	100 0 0	125 0 0	...	30 0 0	...	121 19 0
Dunfermline, .	20239	...	...	...	...	16 chalders.	32	...	See text.	...	...	18 0 0	17 0 0	See text.
Carnbee, .	1043	...	...	...	...	17 chalders.	3	34 4 0	...	...	35 0 0	17 17 0	42 17 0	...
Falkland, .	2886	...	...	...	...	See text.	5	34 4 0	50 0 0	84 4 0	...	20 0 0	50 6 0	143 0 0
Crail, .	1737	...	...	...	...	136 b. m. & b.	4	34 4 0	40 0 0	74 4 0	...	...	...	...
Kilrenny, .	2039	...	...	...	...	L. 166, 1s. 10d.	5	34 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	116 8 0
Pittenweem, .	1339	...	...	...	...		3	34 4 0	...	...	...	...	...	...





# INDEX.

- Abbey, Balmerino, ruins and history of, 578, 583  
 Abbey of Dunfermline, ruins, &c. of, 857  
 Abbey church of Dunfermline, ruins of, 852  
 Abbots of Dunfermline, list of, 857  
 Abbotshall, Lord, 152  
 Abbotshall, parish of, 146  
 Abden house, 804, 811—King's house and gate at, 809—tenure under which held, *ib.*  
 Abdie, parish of, 47—church, ruins of, 51  
 Abercrombie or St Monans, parish of, 337—village of, 348—church, ruins of, 343  
 Abercromby, James, Lord Dunfermline, 866  
 Aberdour, parish of, 716—harbour, 717—village, *ib.*—house, 718  
 Academy, Cupar, 15  
 Adam, William, the architect, 153  
 Adamson, Rev. John, 540  
 Adie, Lillias, a witch, 732  
 Agabatha, fort of, 28  
 Agates found at Creich, 632  
 Agricola, notices of, 411, 565, 697, 777  
 Agricultural association, Collessie, 34—East of Fife, 331—Kinglassie, 201—Kirkcaldy, 765—West of Fife, 893  
 Agriculture and Rural Economy, 31, 42, 52, 73, 84, 94, 106, 119, 125, 136, 155, 167, 177, 189, 199, 214, 224, 242, 254, 269, 288, 308, 330, 345, 367, 381, 395, 416, 430, 440, 447, 473, 502, 509, 526, 546, 569, 589, 603, 621, 647, 669, 707, 723, 735, 751, 773, 778, 784, 794, 799, 811, 880, 917, 934, 957, 978, 986  
 Ague, former prevalence of, in Elie, 278  
 Airdit castle, ruins of, 223—hill, 218  
 Airdrie hill, 942—house, 949  
 Aithernie, stone coffins found at, 268  
 Albany, the Regent, murder of the Duke of Rothesay by, 459, 924  
 Alexander I., notices of, 717—II., 584—III., 863—scene of the death of, 805  
 Alum well, the, Dysart, 128  
 American bug, ravages of the, 742  
 Anderson, Dr, geology of Kemback, &c. by, 721, 802  
 Annabella, Queen, residence of, 240  
 Annat point, 827  
 Anne of Denmark, relics of, 857  
 Anstruther, Sir Ralph A., 339—of Elie, family of, 285—Sir William, *ib.*—Sir John, *ib.*  
 Anstruther burn, 613, 616—house, 984  
 Anstruther Easter, parish of, 295—town, 296  
 Anstruther Wester, parish of, 611—town, 620, 623, 629  
 Antiquities, 4, 27, 51, 64, 83, 92, 106, 115, 125, 133, 150, 197, 220, 239, 267, 287, 343, 365, 393, 413, 428, 438, 446, 464, 508, 524, 544, 565, 583, 601, 619, 640, 663, 705, 717, 722, 732, 748, 771, 777, 792, 799, 808, 848, 930, 946, 955, —Mr Paton's collection of, at Dunfermline, 857  
 Appin colliery, 834  
 Archbishop of St Andrews, the first, 459  
 Armstrong, Willie, anecdote of, 266  
 Arncroach, chapel at, 918  
 Arnot, Hugo, 916  
 Arran, the Regent, 636  
 Auchinleck, Rev. Thomas, 619  
 Auchmuty paper mills, 672  
 Auchterderran, parish of, 165—past and present state of, 173  
 Auchtermairnie house, 379  
 Auchtermuchty, parish of, 781—town, *ib.* 783  
 Auchtertool, parish of, 249—village, 257  
 Auchter-uther-struther, ruins of, 524  
 Augustine monastery of St Andrews, ruins of, 466  
 Ayton, James, spinning mills of, 160  
 Back burn, the, 823  
 Backmuir of Gilston, village of, 442  
 Baillie of Lamington, family of, 638—colonel, 639, 654—principal, 746  
 Balas house, 8  
 Balbec, ruins of tower at, 414  
 Balbirnie collieries, 659—house, 668—paper mills and factory, 673  
 Balcaithly, urn found at, 366  
 Balcarres, family of, 327  
 Balcarres coal field, 321, 322—craig, 319, 321—den, 321, 324—house, 326  
 Balchrystie, ruins of church at, 125  
 Balcomie castle, ruins of, 947  
 Balcruvie castle, ruins of, 438  
 Baldridge burn, 829—colliery, 831  
 Baldutho craig, 914—limestone at, 916  
 Balfour, family of, 665—of Balbirnie, 667—of Burleigh, 776—James, 50—James,



- of Whittinghame, 667—Sir James, 50,  
 599—Sir Robert, death of, 71  
 Balfour or Bal-orr castle, 665  
 Balgarvie house, 41  
 Balgonar house, 799  
 Balgonie bleachfield, 676—castle, ruins  
 and history of, 666—spinning mills,  
 674  
 Balhousie, urns found at, 439  
 Ballantine, William, death of, 317  
 Ballinbreich castle, ruins of, 599, 601  
 Ballingry, parish of, 446  
 Ballomill burn, 559  
 Balmalcom, village of, 106, 109  
 Balmerino, the last Lord, 582—the first,  
 586  
 Balmerino, parish of, 577—abbey, ruins  
 and history of, 578, 583—village, 578  
 Balmullo, village of, 224, 227  
 Balmuto house, 811  
 Balnaves, Henry, 27, 745  
 Balrymonth hills, 450  
 Balsillie, Roman remains at, 116  
 Balsusney house, 749  
 Baltullo, coal at, 522  
 Balwearie tower, ruins of, 150  
 Balyarrow curling club, 646  
 Bandrum house, 799  
 Baneton, village of, 380  
 Banks, &c. Colinsburgh, 333—Dunferm-  
 line, 891—Markinch, 686—St Andrews,  
 497  
 Bankton park, village of, 106, 109  
 Barclay of Collairney, family of, 208  
 Barns house, ruins of, 946  
 Barnslee house, 665  
 Barnsmuir house, 971  
 Barnyards, village of, 328  
 Baron, Professor, 462  
 Barrows, see Tumuli  
 Basaltic columns in Ceres, 518—on Dun-  
 earn hill, 408—in Kinghorn, 801, 803  
 —on Largo law, 434—on Orrock hill,  
 407—in Outh quarry, 840  
 Battle law of Balmerino, 587  
 Baudon hill, camp on, 106—quarry at,  
 105  
 Baxter and Stewart, spinning mills of,  
 674  
 Bayne, James, 871  
 Beacon on Bimar rock, the, 828  
 Beath, parish of, 174—hill, *ib.* 824, 842  
 —conveticle held at, 860  
 Beaton, Cardinal, notices of, 40, 364, 459,  
 666  
 Beatson, Robert, Esq. 133  
 Beaton, Rev. William, 179  
 Belfrage, Rev. George, 701  
 Bell, Dr Andrew, 15, 462, 482  
 Bellevue house, 783  
 Bellfield house, 8  
 Benedictines, introduction of the, into  
 Fife, 743  
 Bennarty hill, 195  
 Berry, Francis, bequest by, 180  
 Berryland, sandstone quarry of, 841  
 Bethune of Creich, family of, 636—David,  
*ib.*—Mary, 637—of Balfour, 666—Sir  
 H. Lindesay, 328  
 Biggar, Rev. Thomas, 807  
 Billowness head, 295, 614  
 Bimar rock and beacon, 231, 828  
 Bin hill, 404, 407  
 Birkhill house, 578, 588  
 Births, tables of, Dunfermline, 874  
 Black loch, the, 829  
 Blackadder, Rev. John, 866  
 Blackburn, village of, 874  
 Black Cairn hill, 57  
 Black craig hill, 632, 633  
 Blackfriars monastery, St Andrews, 468  
 Blacklaws, quarry at, 979  
 Blackwood, Adam, Henry, and George  
 871  
 Blair, Arnold, chaplain to Wallace, 870  
 —Dr Hugh, 27—Rev. Robert, 462,  
 717, 899  
 Blair house, 706—plantations, 696  
 Blalowne house, 8  
 Bleachfields, Ceres, 527—Kinghorn, 812  
 —Kirkaldy, 755—Leslie, 119—Mark-  
 inch, 676—Strathmiglo, 779  
 Blebo spinning mills, 724  
 Boar, former abundance of, in St An-  
 drews, 456  
 Boar's chace, district called the, 360  
 Boarhills, village of, 449, 481  
 Bogie house, 154  
 Bogle hill, quarries at, 559  
 Boiling well, the, 265  
 Bonytown, mineral spring at, 454  
 Boreland, village of, 136, 139  
 Boswell, David, of Balmuto, 806—Sir  
 John, *ib.*  
 Botany, 23, 39, 48, 61, 113, 150, 208,  
 234, 252, 305, 323, 409, 427, 457,  
 562, 582, 599, 618, 695, 742, 804, 844,  
 945, 973  
 Bothie system, evils of the, 214, 225,  
 425, 430  
 Bothwell, Earl of, 928, 929  
 Boulders, remarkable, in Balmerino, 581  
 —in Fliak, 598—in Moonzie, 788  
 Bower, Rev. John, 161  
 Bowman, David, bequest by, 968  
 Breweries, Auchtertool, 257—Dunferm-  
 line, 890—St Monans, 347  
 Bricedale house, 749  
 Brickworks, Dunfermline, 890  
 Bridges, see Roads  
 Briery well, the, 964  
 Broomhall, family of, 867  
 Broomhall house, 824—relics of Bruce  
 in, 856—and of Anne of Denmark, 857  
 Brown, Rev. Mr. 539  
 Bruce, burial place of, at Dunfermline,  
 858—relics of, 856—of Earls hall, fa-  
 mily of, 220—of Kinloss, 697—Edward,

- 697—Thomas, *ib.*—Mr, king's printer,  
 783—of Falkland, 930—Professor, 806,  
 807—Sir George, of Carnock, 698, 867  
 —Sir William, 916  
 Brucefield, village of, 874—spinning mills  
 at, 890  
 Brucehaven, village of, 230—harbour,  
 824, 896  
 Brunton castle, 665—village, 651  
 Buchanan, George, 459, 462—Rev.  
 Thomas, 525  
 Buchhaven, village of, 394, 396, 398, 400  
 —fisheries, 396—harbour, 403  
 Bucklyvie, village of, 281  
 Buddo rock, the, 451  
 Bunzeon house, 568  
 Burnside, village of, 106, 109  
 Burntisland, parish of, 404—town, *ib.*—  
 its history, &c. 411, 418—harbour, 419  
 —pier, dock, &c. 420  
 Burnturk, quarries at, 105  
 Bursary, Henry's, 818—Thomas', 627  
 Caiplic, remains found at, 976  
 Cairnienbie, springs at, 828  
 Cairneyhill, village of, 710, 714  
 Cairnie hills, 536—house, 8, 326  
 Cairns, Aberdour, 717—Burntisland, 414  
 —Collessie, 28—Flisk, 601—Leslie,  
 116—Saline, 799—Scoonie, 268—  
 Strathmiglo, 777  
 Cambie water, 112  
 Cameron, Richard, birthplace of, 932  
 Cameron, parish of, 304  
 Cameron bridge, distillery of, 677  
 Camilla loch, house, and water, 148, 250  
 Campbell, Dr, monument to, 7  
 Campsbank hill, 690—remains on, 697, 705  
 Capelochy castle, ruins of, 976  
 Carberry, Roman station at, 134  
 Cardan's well, 40  
 Cardon, den of, 167  
 Cargill, Rev. Donald, 933  
 Carmichael, Rev. Frederick, 678  
 Carnbee, parish of, 913—law, 914—place,  
 ruins of, 916  
 Carneil hill, 690, 691—British camp at,  
 697  
 Carnock, parish of, 690—house, 706—  
 quarries, 693—tower and cross, 705—  
 village, 692, 706, 710  
 Carphin quarry, 651  
 Carr rock, the, 943  
 Carron Company, the, 420  
 Carslogie house, 7  
 Carstairs, Rev. Dr, 630  
 Cascades in Auchtertool, 250  
 Cassingray collieries, 915  
 Castlehill of Cupar, 3  
 Castlehaven, ruins of tower at, 947  
 Cathedral of St Andrews, the, 465  
 Cattle, see Live-stock  
 Caves in Burntisland, 405—Kemback,  
 721—Kilrenny, 971—Kinghorn, 801  
 —Pittenweem, 986—St Andrews, 451  
 Cellardykes, town, harbour, and fisheries  
 of, 295, 299, 975, 977, 979, 980  
 Ceres, parish of, 517—town, 523, 528—  
 burn, 518  
 Chalmers, Dr, birthplace, &c., of, 297,  
 412, 540  
 Chamber of Commerce, Kirkcaldy, 158  
 Chance Inn, village of, 517  
 Chapel, quarry at, 149  
 Chapel of St Rule, ruins of, 464  
 Chapel farm, site of camp at, 446  
 Chapel garden of Wemyss, the, 393  
 Chapels in Flisk, ruins of, 464  
 Charles I., birthplace of, 849, 864  
 Charles II., signing of the Covenant by,  
 864  
 Charleston lime-quarries and works, 824,  
 837—fossil remains in them, 838—vil-  
 lage and harbour, 874, 896  
 Charleton house, 326  
 Charter of St Andrews, the, 477  
 Chartulary of Dunfermline, the, 845  
 Chatelherault, Duke of, 636  
 Cheape, Captain, improvements by, 83  
 Chesterhill, antiquity called, 520  
 Cholera in Dunfermline, 876  
 Christ's Kirk on the Green, scene of, 115  
 Christianity, introduction of, into Fife, 449  
 Chronicle of Fife, author of the, 378  
 Churches, see Ecclesiastical Statistics—  
 belonging to Dunfermline Abbey, 859  
 Cistercian monks, order of the, 584  
 Clatchard crag, 49  
 Clatto hill, 450, 720  
 Cleish hills, 823  
 Climate and meteorology, 1, 22, 37, 48,  
 57, 90, 103, 112, 127, 147, 174, 181,  
 195, 207, 231, 249, 264, 282, 295, 316,  
 339, 357, 375, 391, 426, 436, 451, 506,  
 517, 534, 559, 579, 596, 612, 632, 716,  
 720, 741, 770, 801, 824, 914, 944  
 Clune hills, 690—plantations, 695  
 Cluny collieries, 170  
 Cluthie burn, 534  
 Coal and collieries, Abbotshall, 149—  
 Anstruther Wester, 613, 617—Auch-  
 terderran, 169—Balcarres, 322—Bal-  
 lingry, 448—Beath, 175—Cameron,  
 305—Carnbee, 915—Carnock, 693—  
 Ceres, 519—Crail, 946—Dunfermline,  
 829, 836—Dunino, 357—Dysart, 129  
 —Earlsferry, 319—Elie, 283—Fordel,  
 182—Grange, 321—Inverkeithing, 232  
 —Kennoway, 377, 384—Kinghorn, 803  
 —Kinglassie, 195—Kingsbarns, 91—  
 Kirkcaldy, 742, 752—Largo, 435—  
 Markinch, 659—St Andrews, 475—St  
 Monans, 340—Scoonie, 265—Torry-  
 burn, 728, 735—Wemyss, 395  
 Coalton, village of, 106, 109  
 Coaltown, East and West, villages of,  
 393, 400  
 Coaltown of Ceres, village of, 517  
 Cockairney house, 181



- Coins found in Abdie, 51—in Collessie, 29—in Dunino, 366—in Flisk, 601—in Kilmany, 544—in Leuchars, 223—in Moonzie, 792  
 Coldstream, Mrs, bequest by, 969  
 Colinsburgh, village of, 328  
 Colinswell house, 415  
 Collairney castle, ruins of, 209  
 College close, Falkland, 937  
 Colleges of St Andrews, 482  
 Collessie, parish of, 21—village, 30  
 Colliers, character of the, 879  
 Colluthie burn, 534—house, 792  
 Constable, Archibald, Esq. 916  
 Constantine III., notice of, 460  
 Cook, Archibald, bequest by, 401—Rev. John, 540  
 Corbiehill, village of, 578  
 Cormie hill, remains on, 150  
 Corn markets, Kirkcaldy, 757  
 Cornceres, limestone at, 972  
 Coull, collieries of, 659  
 Coultry hill and village, 578  
 Covenant, signing, &c. of the, 678, 730, 744, 864  
 Craigencrune hill, 633  
 Craighoodie hill, 218, 770, 787—house, 771  
 Craighall, basaltic columns at, 518—castle, 519—house, ruins of 524—quarry at, 521  
 Craighead point, 506  
 Craighead, Crail, quarry at, 946—remains found at, 956  
 Craigholm house, 412  
 Craigie hill, coins found at, 223  
 Craigloon, soil at, 914  
 Craiglug hill, 633  
 Craigluscar hill, 824—quarry, 839  
 Craigrothie quarry, 518—village, 517, 523  
 Craigsimmy hill, 633  
 Craigsparrow hill, 57  
 Crail, parish of, 941—town, 959  
 Craw, Paul, martyrdom of, 66, 459  
 Crawford family, burial place of the, 568—Lady Mary Lindsay, *ib.* 576—third Earl of, 789, 790  
 Crawford castle and priory, 568  
 Creich, parish of, 631—castle, ruins of, 644—church, ruins of, 645—Druidical circles of, 640  
 Crime, tables of, Anstruther, 624—Burntisland, 424—Dunfermline, 910—Markinch, 589  
 Cromarty, Earl of, bequest by, 400  
 Crombie, suppressed parish of, 727—church, ruins of, 732—villages, 733  
 Cromwell, notices of, 134, 240, 412, 413, 865  
 Cromwell's pit, 984  
 Cross of Carnock, 705—of Cupar, 7—of Kirkcaldy, 749  
 Crossford, village of, 874  
 Crossgates, village of, 188, 574, 874  
 Culalo hills, 249, 830  
 Culdees, notices of the, 125, 366, 468 581, 677, 743  
 Cults, parish of, 588—hills, *ib.*—quarry, 570  
 Cultsmill, village of, 574  
 Cunner law, 914  
 Cunningham, Alexander, of Barns, 612  
 Cunoquhie house, 41  
 Curling in Creich, 646  
 Currie, Rev. John, 196  
 Cupar, parish and town of, 1—castle, 4—cross, 7—buildings, *ib.*  
 Cuttlehill colliery, 835—house, 718  
 Dairsie, parish of, 770—burn, 771—castle, ruins of, *ib.*—cottage, 772—property, 771  
 Dairsiemoor, village of, 774  
 Dalgety, parish of, 181  
 Dalginch castle, remains of, 665  
 Dalgleish, William, bequest by, 87  
 Dalzell house, 8  
 Danes, defeats of the, 197, 587, 805  
 Danish remains, Crail, 956—Creich, 644—Largo, 438—Inverkeithing, 239  
 Dara, den of, 518  
 David I., notices of, 743, 960  
 David II., birthplace, &c. of, 743, 863  
 David Duke of Rothesay, murder of, 924  
 David Viscount Stormont, 931  
 Davidson, George, bequest by, 652—Rev. John, 871  
 Deaths, tables of, Dunfermline, 875  
 Den of Balcarres, 321, 324  
 Den of Carden, 167  
 Den of Dara, 518  
 Den of Dura, 720, 721, 921  
 Den of Goales, 533  
 Den of Kirkcaldy, 741  
 Den of Luscar, 695  
 Den of Wormit, 578  
 Denhead, coal at, 475—village, 307  
 Dickson, Rev. John, 866  
 Dissenters and dissenting chapels, 14, 45, 54, 78, 86, 99, 110, 120, 126, 142, 161, 170, 179, 190, 202, 216, 228, 246, 258, 275, 291, 302, 312, 334, 352, 373, 387, 399, 421, 432, 443, 448, 481, 501, 515, 529, 554, 575, 593, 607, 626, 653, 682, 683, 713, 718, 737, 765, 780, 785, 797, 816, 898, 919, 939, 982  
 Distilleries, Grange, 416—Inverkeithing, 244—Leuchars, 226—Markinch, 677  
 Dock, Burntisland, 420  
 Dogtown, monumental stone at, 197  
 Doig, Dr, 933  
 Dominican monastery, St Andrews, 468  
 Donaldson, Mr, bleachfield of, 676—Andrew, 871  
 Donibristle house, 188  
 Douglas of Knockdovie, family of, 414—of Strathendry, 115—Lord William, 617, 618—bishop, 986—Rev. Robert, 747  
 Doune, Lord, 717  
 Downfield hill, camp on, 105  
 Draffan castle, ruins of, 365

- Draining, 43, 91, 97, 108, 137, 168, 189, 199, 224, 243, 256, 310, 346, 370, 383, 440, 447, 526, 548, 604, 650, 670, 708, 799, 885, 917  
 Dreel burn, 339, 612, 616, 914  
 Druidical remains, Creich, 640—Dunino, 366—Kilconquhar, 315—Largo, 438—Letham hill, 239—Strathmiglo, 777  
 Drumcarrow hill, 304, 520  
 Drummochy, village of, 442  
 Drummond of Hawthornden, notices of, 946  
 Drumnod, farm of, 551—urns found at, 544  
 Drumrack hill, 942  
 Drysdale, Mr, factory of, 673—Rev. Dr, 747  
 Dubbyside, village of, 274  
 Du-Craig island, 827, 828  
 Dunbog, parish of, 205—property and house, 208  
 Dundas, Lord, 208, 209—Mrs, bequest by, 163  
 Dundonald colliery, 170  
 Dunearn hill, 405—loch on, 407—basaltic columns, 408—camp, 411  
 Dunfermline, Earl of, 861, 866  
 Dunfermline, parish and town of, 821—abbey, ruins and history of, 743, 827—abbey church, ruins of, 852—palace, ruins of, 848  
 Dunino, parish of, 356—property, 370—ruins of nunnery at, 356, 365  
 Dunmore hill, 205  
 Dunnikier collieries, 742, 752—house and plantations, 743, 749—law, 316, 319—village, 139  
 Dunshilt, village of, 783  
 Dura den, 720, 721, 921—bleachfield, 527  
 Durham, Sir Alexander, 436—Admiral Sir Philip, 182, 438—General, 438—Rev. James, 436  
 Durie, David, 861—Rev. John, 870—Lord, 266  
 Durie collieries, 265—house, 268  
 Dury of Rossend, family of, 413  
 Dye works, Dunfermline, 891  
 Dysart, first Earl of, 132  
 Dysart, parish and town of, 127—church, ruins of, 134  
 Earlsferry coalfield, 319—point, 320—town, 325  
 Earlsall castle, ruins of, 223  
 Earthquakes, effects of, on the Leven, 112  
 East Baldrige colliery, 834  
 East Balrymonth hill, 450  
 East Cardon, improvements of, 169  
 East Coaltown, village of, 398, 400  
 East Lomond hill, geology of, 922—camps on, 930  
 East Luthrie quarry, 651  
 East Neuk of Fife, the, 90  
 East Pitcouthie, stone at, 976  
 East Port of Kirkcaldy, *quoad sacra* parish of, 765  
 East Wemyss, village of, 398, 400  
 East of Fife agricultural association, 331—educational society, 627  
 Easter Anstruther, parish and town of, 295  
 Easter Gallaton, village of, 139  
 Eastern church of Dunfermline, ruins of, 852  
 Ebtie, see Abdie  
 Ecclesiastical statistics, 12, 34, 44, 54, 78, 86, 99, 109, 120, 126, 141, 160, 170, 179, 190, 201, 216, 227, 245, 258, 274, 290, 300, 311, 333, 349, 372, 386, 399, 420, 432, 442, 448, 502, 515, 528, 553, 574, 593, 607, 625, 652, 677, 711, 718, 725, 736, 761, 774, 779, 784, 796, 799, 815, 872, 896, 919, 937, 964, 981, 987  
 Eden water, 1, 2, 22, 102, 104, 218, 450, 454, 474, 517, 559, 720, 771  
 Edenshead, village of, 779  
 Edens muir, 31  
 Edenston, village of, 30  
 Edenwood house, 525  
 Education, statistics of, 14, 36, 45, 54, 76, 87, 99, 110, 121, 126, 143, 163, 171, 179, 191, 202, 217, 228, 247, 258, 275, 291, 312, 335, 353, 373, 388, 400, 422, 432, 443, 448, 482, 505, 515, 529, 555, 575, 594, 608, 626, 653, 683, 713, 719, 727, 738, 766, 775, 780, 785, 797, 799, 816, 901, 919, 939, 968, 982, 987  
 Educational society, East of Fife, 627  
 Edward I., notices of, 458, 863  
 Edward III., 458  
 Edward, Rev. Alexander, 363  
 Egsmalee, ruins of church at, 810  
 Elie, parish of, 278—house, 287—village and harbour, 280, 289—ruby, 284  
 Elgin, family of, 867  
 Elgin collieries, 830, 835—marbles, 867  
 Elizabeth, Queen of Bohemia, birthplace of, 849, 864  
 Elliot, Sir Gilbert, 167  
 Elphinston, Sir James, 586  
 Embanking in Collessie, 32—of the Eden, 474  
 Emergarde, Queen, 577, 584  
 Epidemics, freedom of St Andrews from, 453  
 Erskine, Rev. Ebenezer, 115—Sir William, of Torry, improvements by, 370—Colonel, 698—John, Professor of Law, *ib.*—Dr John, 699—Sir John D. 733—Judge, 771—Sir Thomas, 916  
 Factories, see Spinning mills  
 Falfield collieries, 322—house, 326  
 Fairney of Fairney, 929  
 Fairs, see Markets  
 Fairway rock, the, 828  
 Falkland, parish of, 920—castle, 926—house, 930—palace, ruins and history of, 923—town, 937—wood, 923  
 Farm buildings, state of, 85, 97, 125, 137,



- 156, 168, 178, 199, 225, 243, 256,  
272, 288, 310, 332, 346, 355, 369,  
384, 431, 441, 475, 510, 549, 569,  
605, 622, 650, 708, 778, 795, 812,  
886, 959, 978  
Farming implements, prices of, 270, 604,  
648, 708, 881  
Farnie, Mr, his apparatus for preparing  
oil, 418—dock belonging to, 420  
Fergus, Rev. Henry, 871—James, 753—  
Walter, of Strathern, 749  
Fergusson, Sir Robert C., 153—Mr, of  
Raith, 153, 169—Dr Adam, 462—  
Rev. David, 699, 700, 870  
Fernie castle, 40, 41—village, 44  
Fernie, Rev. John, history of Dunferm-  
line by, 843  
Ferry at Newport, the, 512  
Ferry hills, the, 230  
Ferry Port-on-Craig, parish of, 81—vil-  
lage, 84  
Ferrybank house, 8  
Fife ness, 941  
Fifeshire, observations on, 988  
Firth of Forth, the, 231, 612, 827, 828  
Firth of Tay, ferry on the, 512  
Fisheries, herring, 299, 346, 396, 417,  
476, 962, 979, 986—salmon, 74, 85,  
125, 244, 441, 475, 510, 589, 605,  
720—sea, 98, 289, 299, 346, 396, 476,  
622, 718  
Fish pond, curious, in Anstruther, 623  
Fittie loch, 128, 174, 829  
Fleming, Professor, 600  
Flisk, parish of, 595—wood, ruins of  
chapel at, 601  
Fliskmill hill, remains on, 601  
Font, old, found in Inverkeithing, 240  
Foodie hill, 770  
Fordel collieries, 182  
Fordel Square, village of, 188  
Fordun the Historian, 364, 461  
Forest, submarine, 597  
Forgan, parish of, 505  
Forth, frith of, 231, 612, 827, 828  
Forthar lime quarries, 105  
Forta, ancient, Collessie, 28  
Fossil fishes of Burntisland, the, 407  
Founderies, Dunfermline, 890—Inver-  
keithing, 244—Kirkcaldy, 756—  
Scoonie, 272  
Foxton house, 8  
Franciscan monastery at St Andrews, 468  
Fraser, Rev. Donald, 387  
Frater hall at Dunfermline, ruins of, 851  
Free churches, Dunfermline, 898  
Freuchie, village of, 936  
Friendly Societies, 17, 45, 144, 276, 292,  
302, 313, 335, 353, 401, 423, 444, 493,  
530, 628, 685, 714, 739, 768, 780, 905  
Fuel, prices, &c. of, 19, 46, 80, 101, 110,  
122, 127, 145, 180, 217, 229, 248, 260,  
277, 294, 313, 355, 390, 425, 445, 495,  
516, 531, 557, 576, 595, 609, 629,  
654, 715, 770, 798, 819, 912, 940,  
983  
Gadvan, preceptory of, 210  
Gair bridge, the, 478  
Galdry, village of, 578  
Gallaton, village of, 135, 139  
Gallow's knowe of Burntisland, 413  
Gas Works, Abbotshall, 157—Dunferm-  
line, 894  
Gask hill, the, 28  
Gateside, village of, 779  
Gellie, loch, 128, 148, 166—water, 148  
General Assembly, meeting of the, at  
Burntisland, 411  
Geology and Mineralogy, 2, 23, 38, 47,  
59, 91, 105, 113, 129, 149, 175, 195,  
207, 219, 232, 250, 265, 283, 296, 305,  
319, 339, 357, 376, 406, 427, 455, 507,  
518, 536, 559, 597, 613, 632, 656, 691,  
720, 728, 741, 787, 803, 829, 915, 921,  
945, 972, 983  
Gibb, Rev. William, 539  
Gibliston, limestone at, 916  
Gibson, Sir Alexander, 266  
Gifferton, village of, 30  
Gillespie, Mr, of Mountquhanie, im-  
provements by, 538—Rev. Mr, 238—  
Rev. George, birthplace of, 392—D. of  
Kirkton, bequest by, 556, 654—Pro-  
fessor, 567—Rev. Thomas, founder of  
the Relief, 701—George, 745—Pa-  
trick, 746—Rev. Robert, 933  
Gladney Cotton, village of, 9  
Glammiss castle, site of, 804  
Glassmount hill, 801—house, 810  
Glenduckie hill, 596, 598  
Glentarkie house, 159  
Glenvale, scenery of, 776—burn, 921  
Gloe loch, 829  
Goales, den of, 533  
Goat milk hill, Danish remains on, 197  
Golf balls, manufactory of, 476  
Golf Club, Burntisland, 416—St An-  
drews, 472  
Gordon, Sir William, of Lismore, 948  
Gourlay of Kincairig, family of, 328  
Gowkhall, village of, 710  
Grame, Rev. Mr, bequest by, 903  
Grange coalfield, 319, 321—distillery, 416  
—house, 415—sandstone quarry, 408  
Grangemuir house, 616, 618  
Gray, Dr, bequest by, 16  
Greencraig hill, 632, 633—ancient fort  
on, 644  
Greenlaw, Rev. Dr, 632  
Greens of Kilmany, the, 549  
Gregory, James, inventor of the Grego-  
rian telescope, 462  
Greig, Admiral, birthplace of, 238  
Greyfriars monastery, St Andrews, 468  
Grierson, Mr, history of St Andrews by,  
458  
Grieve, J. & Co. paper mills of, 673  
Guard bridge, 478

- Guild court of Dunfermline, 895  
 Gullane, Andrew, death of, 583  
 Hackston, David, of Rathillet, 539  
 Hadow, Principal, 462  
 Halbeath colliery, 835, 837—village, 874  
 Haliburton, Rev. Thomas, 525  
 Halkerston, Miss, bequest by, 531—David, of Rathillet, 539—Helenus, *ib.*  
 Halket of Pitferrane, family of, 868—Lady Anne, *ib.*—Sir John, 869  
 Hallyards house, 250  
 Halyburton, Professor, 462  
 Hamilton, Archbishop, 467—Patrick, martyrdom of, 459  
 Hanging Myre, the, 923  
 Harbours, Aberdour, 717—Anstruther—Easter, 295—Buckhaven, 403—Burntisland, 419—Dunfermline, 896—Dysart, 140—Elie, 280—Forgar, 506, 514—Inverkeithing, 245—Kinghorn, 813—Kirkcaldy, 756, 758—Leven, 273—Methil, 398—Pettycur, 815—St Andrews, 478—St Monans, 348—Starly-burn, 420—West Wemyss, 398  
 Hardie, Rev. James, 818  
 Haugh spinning mills, 675—bleachfield, 676  
 Haughs of Kilmany, 549  
 Hawkley muir, village of, 135, 139  
 Hay, Lawrence, monument to, 6—Peter, 583—Sir John, 586—of Naughton, 587  
 Hazzleden, quarry at, 305  
 Helmet of the Bruce, the, 856  
 Henderson, Rev. Alexander, 220, 634—bequest by, 228, 634, 635—Rev. Ebenezer, 872  
 Henry, Rev. James, bursary founded by, 818—bequest by, 819  
 Henryson, Rev. Robert, 871  
 Hepburn, John, Prior of St Andrews, 467, 487  
 Herring fisheries, see Fisheries  
 Hill, Principal, 462  
 Hillend, village of, 188, 242, 244  
 Hillside house, 718, 799  
 Hilton house, 8  
 History, civil, 4, 26, 39, 50, 63, 83, 92, 106, 114, 124, 130, 150, 166, 175, 188, 196, 208, 220, 236, 252, 266, 285, 296, 306, 325, 341, 361, 377, 392, 411, 428, 436, 446, 458, 500, 507, 522, 539, 564, 582, 599, 618, 634, 663, 697, 717, 722, 729, 743, 771, 776, 782, 788, 798, 804, 844, 916, 923, 946, 974, 984  
 Hog, Rev. William, 132—Rev. James, 701  
 Holekettle Burnside, village of, 106, 109  
 Hope, Sir John, 40—of Craighall, family of, 523—Sir Thomas, 524—Sir William, 948  
 Hopeton, Earl of, 40—monument to, 41  
 Horsburgh, Major, improvements by, 552  
 Horses, see Live Stock  
 Horticultural Society, Dunfermline, 893  
 Hospital of St Leonards, 498  
 Hospital Mill, quarries at, 559—spinning mills of, 573—village, 574  
 Huntly, Lord, defeat of the Crawfords by, 790  
 Husbandry, systems of, 10, 32, 43, 74, 95, 96, 107, 137, 155, 168, 178, 200, 215, 224, 243, 255, 271, 309, 330, 345, 368, 382, 416, 430, 440, 447, 474, 509, 547, 548, 569, 589, 604, 649, 670, 708, 778, 795, 885, 917, 935, 958, 978  
 Hutton, Rev. Andrew, 540—General, 846  
 Hydrography, 2, 22, 38, 49, 57, 104, 112, 128, 148, 166, 174, 181, 195, 218, 231, 249, 264, 280, 305, 317, 339, 357, 376, 391, 405, 454, 506, 517, 533, 559, 579, 596, 612, 632, 691, 728, 741, 771, 827, 914, 944  
 Improvements, Auchtertool, 261—Flisk, 609—Wemyss, 402  
 Inchcolm, island and monastery of, 717  
 Inchgarvie isle, 231, 240  
 Inchkeith, island and lighthouse of, 819—meteorological observations taken at, 801  
 Inchlaw hill, 426  
 Inchrye house, 52  
 Ink Craig spring, 691  
 Innergelly woods, 973, 974  
 Inns and alehouses, 19, 46, 79, 101, 110, 122, 126, 145, 164, 171, 180, 229, 248, 260, 277, 293, 299, 313, 354, 372, 390, 424, 432, 445, 448, 495, 516, 531, 557, 576, 609, 629, 654, 715, 739, 770, 795, 819, 912, 940, 983  
 Inverkeithing, town of, 236, 241, 242, 244—battle of, 865  
 Inverkeithing and Rosyth, united parishes of, 230  
 Inverleven, village of, 682  
 Invertiel, village of, 811—*quoad sacra* parish, 815  
 Inweary burn, 339  
 Inzievar house, 799  
 Irnie hill, 970  
 Iron founderies, Charleston, 890, 891—Dunfermline, 890—Inverkeithing, 244—Kirkcaldy, 756—Scoonie, 272  
 Ironstone found in Anstruther, 615, 617—in Carnock, 692—in Dunfermline, 842—Dysart, 129—Kirkcaldy, 742—Markinch, 658—St Andrews, 455—St Monans, 340—Wemyss, 395  
 Irving, Edward, 762  
 James III., birthplace of, 467  
 James V., escape of, from the Douglasses, 927  
 James VI., notices of, 29, 411, 459, 806, 864, 928  
 Jameson, Professor, on the Geology of Burntisland, 406  
 Jermin's Mortification, 904



- John of Fordun, the historian, 364  
 Johnston, Mr, embanking of the Eden by, 104  
 Johnstone, Mr, improvements by, 32  
 Kame water, 719  
 Keilour burn, 22  
 Keils glen, 432  
 Keith water, 230  
 Kellie, Earl of, 916  
 Kellie law, 316, 914—collieries, 915  
 Kelty, village of, 176  
 Kem water, 719  
 Kemback, parish of, 719—hills, 720—mills, 725  
 Kenly burn, 358, 450, 454, 914  
 Kennedy, Bishop of St Andrews, 468, 487  
 Kenneth II., 450  
 Kennoway, parish of, 375—burn, 376—village, 875, 376, 379, 380  
 Kettle, Mr, bequest by, 442  
 Kettle, parish of, 102—village, 106, 109  
 Kiel burn, 438  
 Kilbrachmont hill, 316, 319  
 Kilconquhar, parish of, 315—house, 326—loch, 280, 317—village, 328  
 Kilgour, suppressed parish of, 920—burial ground at, 939  
 Kilmany, parish of, 532—hill, 533—property, 550—village, 533, 552  
 Kilmaron house, 8  
 Kilminning, remains at, 966  
 Kilmure house, 268  
 Kilremonth and Kilrule, ancient names of St Andrews, 450  
 Kilrenny, parish of, 970—town, 975, 977, 980  
 Kinaldie, trees at, 306  
 Kincaple, village of, 481  
 Kincardine, the Earls of, 698  
 Kincaig hills, 316, 319—headland, 317  
 Kinnedars house, 799  
 Kinghorn, first Earl of, 805  
 Kinghorn, parish of, 800—bay, *ib.*—harbour, 801—loch, 802—ness, 801—town, 802  
 Kinglassie, parish of, 194—village, 195, 201—agricultural association, 201  
 Kingsbarns, parish of, 89—castle, *ib.*—village, 90, 93, 98  
 King's cairn, the, 941  
 Kingsdale house, 379  
 King's gate, the, 809  
 Kingskettle, parish of, 102  
 Kingsmuir, history of the property of, 362—house, 950—plantations at, 945—quarry, 946  
 King's wud end, death of Alexander III. at, 805  
 Kinkell cave, 451  
 Kinloch, village of, 30  
 Kinloss, Lord, 697  
 Kinnear, Charles, Esq. 26  
 Kinnear, barons of, 549—quarry at, 536  
 Kinninmonth quarry, 518  
 Kirkcaldy, parish and town of, 740—agricultural association, 756—chamber of commerce, 158  
 Kirkaldy, Sir James, of Grange, 807—Sir William, *ib.*  
 Kirk craig of Kinghorn, 801  
 Kirkforthar house, 668  
 Kirk heuch of St Andrews, 460  
 Kirkland spinning mills, 394, 397—village, 398, 400  
 Kirklands house, 799—mineral spring, 518  
 Kirkmay, coal at, 946—house, 952  
 Kirkton of Balmerino, 578—of Burntisland, 404, 414, 415—of Largo, 441  
 Knockdovie castle, ruins of, 414  
 Knox, David, bequest by, 17—John, notices of, 465  
 Lackerstone, barrow called, 106  
 Ladedda hill, 520—lime quarry, 521  
 Lady burn, 1, 2  
 Lady well, Balmerino, 580—Falkland, 938  
 Lamberlaws, camp on, 413  
 Lamont, John, 378  
 Landale, David, bleachfield of, 676  
 Land owners, 9, 30, 50, 64, 92, 106, 115, 124, 133, 166, 175, 188, 196, 220, 238, 252, 267, 286, 307, 327, 342, 364, 378, 392, 412, 428, 437, 446, 462, 500, 507, 523, 540, 567, 583, 600, 618, 639, 689, 703, 718, 723, 732, 748, 771, 783, 788, 799, 808, 847, 917, 953, 978  
 Lappa, rocks at, 921  
 Largo, parish of, 434—bay, 317, 434—house, 435, 437—law, 316, 434—village, 436, 442  
 Largoward, chapel at, 333—collieries, 322  
 Lathallan collieries, 322—house, 326  
 Lathalmond, limestone quarry of, 839  
 Lathockar bridge, 913—trees at, 306  
 Lathones, village of, 307  
 Lawrence, Abbot of Lindores, 66  
 Laurie of Hill Cairnie, family of, 544  
 Law, Rev. Mungo, 132  
 Law courts of Dunfermline, 895  
 Law know of Carnock, 706  
 Leases, 43, 85, 125, 137, 156, 168, 178, 199, 215, 243, 256, 271, 288, 310, 331, 346, 384, 431, 440, 447, 475, 510, 527, 549, 570, 605, 622, 650, 671, 708, 724, 778, 795, 812, 886, 959, 978  
 Lesley, Sir Andrew de, 599—Norman, *ib.*  
 Leslie, Sir John, 124, 418, 437—General, 341, 657  
 Leslie, parish of, 111—green, tradition regarding, 115—house, 112, 113, 116—village, 112, 113, 116  
 Lesly, John, of Parkhill, 50—Abbot of Lindores, 67  
 Letham colliery, 835—hill, Druidical remains on, 239—village of, 44  
 Leuchars, parish of, 217—church, resto-

- ration and description of, 220—castle, ruins of, 223—village of 224, 227  
 Leven, first Earl of, 666, 667  
 Leven water, 111, 112, 195—village of, 269, 273  
 Libraries, 16, 45, 88, 100, 121, 144, 164, 203, 229, 247, 259, 275, 292, 388, 401, 423, 433, 444, 493, 526, 608, 714, 739, 768, 818, 903, 940, 982  
 Lighthouse, Inchkeith, 820—May, 612, 943  
 Limekilns, village, bay, and harbour of, 823, 824, 874, 896  
 Lindores Abbey, history and description of, 61, 62, 64—battle of, 52—house, *ib.* loch, 28, 49  
 Lindsay, Sir David, of the Mount, 39, 788, 932—of Balcarres, family of, 327—of Pitscottie, birthplace of, 525—Lord, of Byres, 668—of Kirkforthar, origin of the family of, 669—David Aytone, Esq. 951  
 Linen trade of Kirkcaldy, history, &c. of, 752  
 Lingo, soil at, 914  
 Links of Burntisland, 408—of Elie, 279—of St Andrews, 451  
 Linktown of Abbotshall, 159  
 Live stock, breeds of, 10, 32, 43, 48, 53, 75, 83, 97, 107, 156, 168, 199, 215, 226, 251, 255, 270, 309, 331, 368, 382, 416, 431, 440, 474, 510, 526, 547, 570, 589, 604, 622, 648, 670, 708, 724, 794, 812, 881, 885, 958, 978  
 Loch, remarkable, Dunearn hill, 407  
 Lochend loch, 829  
 Lochgelly collieries, 170—hill, 166—village, 166, 170  
 Lochmalonie house, 538—property, 551  
 Lochore, plantations on, 446—loch, drainage of, 447  
 Lochty bleachfield, 676—water, 128, 195  
 Lochy hill, 633  
 Logan, Rev. Allan, 731  
 Logie, parish of, 426—house, antiquities in, 857—law, 596  
 Lomond hills, 112, 656, 775, 922  
 Long Annat point, 827  
 Long Craig island, 827, 828  
 Longevity, instances of, in Abbotshall, 147—Anstruther, 298, 612—Balmerino, 579—Ceres, 517—Collessie, 22—Crail, 945—Creich, 632—Cupar, 2—Dysart, 136—Forgan, 506—Kilconquhar, 329—Kilmany, 343—Kingshorn, 802—Kirkcaldy, 741—St Andrews, 452  
 Longman's grave, the, 956  
 Lordscairnie castle, 789—loch, drainage of, 786  
 Lower Largo, village of, 436, 442  
 Low, Provost, 871  
 Lowrie's Know, barrow called, 106  
 Luckland hill, 218, 219  
 Lumsdaine, Sir James, 975  
 Lunardi, balloon, ascent of, 524  
 Lundin, family of, 438  
 Lundin house, 435, 438—standing stones of, 267  
 Lundin mill, village of, 442  
 Luscar dean, 695—hill, 690—house, 706  
 Luthrie, village of, 632, 651  
 Lyndemus hill, 596  
 Lyne burn, 829  
 Lyon, Sir John, 805  
 M'Cormack, Principal, 539  
 Macbeth, defeat of the Danes by, 805  
 Macduff, Thane of Fife, 50  
 Macduff's castle, 393, 665—cave, 319—cross, 52, 70  
 M'Indoe, Rev. Robert, 765  
 M'Leun, Rev. Allan, bequest by, 902  
 Madras College, St Andrews, 482  
 Magus muir, 460  
 Maiden Castle, ruins of the, 29, 664—rock, 451  
 Maitland, Admiral, 51—Mr, improvements by, 33  
 Major, John, 461  
 Malcolm Canmore, charter of, 477—burial place of, 852, 853—ruins of tower of, 822, 848  
 Manufactures, 11, 31, 44, 75, 85, 98, 108, 119, 135, 137, 157, 226, 244, 257, 272, 298, 332, 347, 385, 397, 416, 441, 476, 511, 527, 546, 572, 592, 606, 651, 672, 709, 718, 724, 752, 774, 778, 784, 812, 886, 936  
 Mar, the Earl of, 412  
 Margaret, Queen, 822, 853  
 Markets and fairs, 12, 19, 76, 86, 98, 101, 109, 120, 122, 126, 145, 159, 201, 227, 229, 247, 277, 289, 299, 333, 372, 390, 425, 478, 495, 512, 528, 552, 576, 593, 606, 609, 624, 629, 710, 739, 757, 779, 819, 912, 936, 961, 981  
 Markinch, parish of, 655—village, *ib.*—hill, *ib.*—remains on, 663—comparative states of, 688  
 Marshall, Rev. Thomas, 702  
 Martine, history of St Andrews by, 458  
 Mary of Guise, residence of, at Falkland, 928  
 Mary, Queen, residence of, at Falkland, 928  
 Masterton, village of, 874  
 May isle and lighthouse, 611, 612, 942  
 Mechanics' institute, Dunfermline, 868—library, St Andrews, 493  
 Medicine well, Dysart, 128  
 Melville, Sir James, 27—of Raith, 39—George, 1st Earl of, *ib.*—James, *ib.*, 300, 975—Andrew, 39, 462—George, 152—Sir John, of Abden, 809—Laird of Carnbee, 916  
 Melville house, 41—meteorological observations taken at, 37  
 Mercer, Mr, history of Dunfermline by, 845



Meteorology, see Climate  
 Methill, village and harbour of, 398, 400  
     —chapel at, 403  
 Methill mill, ruins of chapel at, 393  
 Middlefield house, 8  
 Middlefoodie burn, 771—village, 774  
 Miglo water, 775  
 Milesmark, village of, 874  
 Miller of Ballomill, tradition regarding the, 29  
 Millhills quarry, 841  
 Milton of Balgonie, village of, 682  
 Miltown, village of, 675  
 Mineralogy, see Geology  
 Mineral springs, Ceres, 518—Dysart, 128  
     Kinghorn, 802—St Andrews, 454  
 Ministers of Abbotshall, 161—Anstruther  
     Easter, 297—Balmerino, 593—Carn-  
     bee, 918—Crail, 967—Creich, 639—  
     Dairsie, 774—Flisk, 707—Kemback,  
     726—Kilmany, 539—Moonzie, 796—  
     Strathmiglo, 777—Wemyss, 399  
 Minto, Lord, improvements by, 168  
 Mitchell, Admiral Sir Andrew, 870  
 Mitchelstone, Rev. John, 412  
 Moir, James, 871  
 Monastery of Dunfermline, 857—Inch-  
     colm, 717—St Andrews, 466, 468  
 Moncrieff, Rev. John, 807  
 Moncrieff of Reddie, family of, 783  
 Monimail, parish of, 37—village of, 44  
 Monks moss, 30, 31  
 Monkston, village of, 30  
 Mons Grampius, battle of, 777  
 Monthrive house, 268  
 Monumental stones, Cults, 568—King-  
     horn, 810—Largo, 438  
 Monzie burn, 219, 786  
 Moonzie, parish of, 786  
 Moothill of Cupar, the, 3  
 Mortimer's deep, origin of the name, 717  
 Motray water, 533, 534, 578, 632, 771  
 Moultry burn, 219  
 Mount hill, 37  
 Mount Melville house, 307  
 Mount Pleasant hill, 404  
 Mountquhanie house, 533, 544—proper-  
     ty, 551—quarry, 536  
 Mowbray, Sir Robert, of Cockairney, 182,  
     188  
 Moyes, Charles, 50—Dr Henry, *ib.*  
 Mucros, ancient name of St Andrews, 449  
 Mugdrum island, 58—cross, 68—house,  
     72—wood, 62  
 Muir Craig, farm of, 550  
 Murdoch, farm of, 551  
 Myres castle, 783  
 Myres of Kinghorn, the, 800  
 Nails, manufacture of, Dysart, 137  
 Nairne of St Fort, family of, 507—Lord,  
     508—Rev. Thomas, 161  
 Naughton house and castle, 577, 578, 586,  
     588  
 Neilson and Co., mills of, 394, 397

Nethergate of Crail, nunnery at, 955  
 Nether Kilrenny harbour, 975  
 Nether Tyne bleachfield, 812  
 Nettles, Jenny, 933  
 Newark house, ruins of, 343  
 Newbarns house, 977  
 Newbigging, basaltic columns at, 518—  
     house, 415, 706—lime quarries, 408—  
     village, 257  
 Newburgh, parish and town of, 56  
 Newburn, parish of, 124  
 Newhall, quarries at, 946—tower, ruins  
     of, 947  
 Newington, property of, 551  
 Newmill house, 771—village, 733  
 Newport ferry, 512—harbour, 506, 514  
     —village, 508  
 Newspapers, Cupar, 16—Kirkcaldy, 768  
 Newton hill, 506  
 Newton of Falkland, village of, 936  
 Newtown of Abbotshall, village of, 159  
 Nine wells, the, 58  
 Norman's law, 49, 205, 534, 596  
 Norrie's law, remains found on, 439  
 North Church, Dunfermline, *quoad sacra*  
     parish of, 897  
 North Glassmount house, remains at, 810  
 North Queensferry, village of, 237, 242,  
     244, 876  
 Nunnery, remains of, in Crail, 955—in  
     Dunino, 356, 365  
 Nuthill, Roman camp at, 931  
 Nydie hills, 720—quarries, 475  
 Oakfield, village of, 176  
 Oakley house, 799—loch, 728  
 Oar water, 128, 148, 166, 168, 195  
 Oberwill, William de, 829  
 Ochil hills, 426, 532, 631, 775  
 Ochre pits, Scoonie, 266—Wemyss, 395  
 Ogilvie, Rev. John, 27—Alexander, of  
     the Boyne, 637  
 Ogilvies, defeat of the, by the Crawfords,  
     790  
 Oil, preparation of, 418  
 Oliver's Knoll, 413  
 Organic remains, Anstruther Wester, 614  
     —Burntisland, 407—Ceres, 522—  
     Cults, 56—Dunfermline, 835, 838, 841  
     —Dysart, 129—Kemback, 721—Kil-  
     many, 538—Kinghorn, 803—Leuchars,  
     219—Markinch, 658—Moonzie, 787  
     —Wemyss, 391  
 Ornithological Society, Dunfermline, 893  
 Orrock hill, 405—basaltic columns at, 407  
 Osnaburgh, village of, 774  
 Oswald, James, of Dunnikier, 747  
 Otterston house and loch, 181, 182  
 Outh quarry, 840  
 Over Kellie, limestone at, 916  
 Paintings, the Torrie, 733—Wilkie's  
     early, 556  
 Palace of Dunfermline, ruins of the, 849  
 Paper mills, Markinch, 672  
 Parbroath castle, ruins of, 645

- Parknook and Blackburn, village of, 874  
 Parliament, meeting of, at St Andrews, 459  
 Parliament Square, Falkland, 937  
 Parish registers of Anstruther, extracts from, 297, 619—of Auchtermuchty, 782—of Beath, 175—of Burntisland, 413—of Carnock, 696, 703—of Ceres, 523—of Dunbog, 210—of Dunfermline, 848—of Dunino, 363—of Flisk, 600—of Inverkeithing, 238—of Kilmany, 541, 542—of Markinch, 678, 683—of St Andrews, 463—of Torryburn, 729—of Wemyss, 393  
 Pathhead, village of, 127, 135, 139  
 Patiemuir, village of, 874  
 Paton's collection of antiquities, 857  
 Pauperism, see Poor  
 Peashills, remains found at, 587  
 Pended tower, ruins of the, 852  
 Pettycur harbour, 801, 815  
 Phelps, Robert, Esq. bequest by, 163, 765, 767, 817, 818  
 Pier of Burntisland, the, 420  
 Pitblado house, 8  
 Pitcairly wood, 62  
 Pitcairn, Dr, birthplace of, 115—Rev. Alexander, 539—Robert, 861—Joseph, Esq. 917, 919  
 Pitcarthie, monumental stone at, 976  
 Pitcullo castle, ruins of, 223  
 Pitdinnis plantations, 696  
 Piteadie castle, ruins of, 810  
 Pitferrane, family of, 868  
 Pitkeerie wood, 913  
 Pitlessie fair, Wilkie's painting of, 26, 567  
 Pitlessie hill, 558—quarries, 570—village, 568, 574  
 Pitormie house, 771  
 Pitreavie, battle of, 865  
 Pitreavie's hospital, 904  
 Pitscottie, spinning mills at, 527—quarry, 518  
 Pittairthy castle, ruins of, 365  
 Pittencrieff glen, 822—quarry, 841  
 Pittendriech, origin of the name of, 366  
 Pittenweem, parish of, 983—town, 984—priory, 985  
 Pitulloch, Andrew, monument to, 6  
 Plague in Dunfermline, the, 865  
 Plantations and planting, 22, 31, 62, 107, 113, 130, 136, 150, 167, 199, 220, 236, 305, 324, 339, 366, 371, 381, 391, 410, 427, 435, 440, 446, 457, 473, 509, 538, 547, 579, 599, 647, 695, 707, 720, 743, 751, 844, 945  
 Playfair, Dr James, 462  
 Poaching in Auchterderran, 167—in Leslie, 118  
 Poor, management of the, 17, 35, 46, 55, 79, 87, 100, 110, 121, 126, 144, 162, 171, 180, 191, 203, 217, 229, 247, 259, 276, 292, 303, 313, 335, 354, 373, 389, 402, 423, 433, 444, 448, 494, 505, 516, 531, 556, 575, 594, 608, 628, 653, 686, 714, 719, 727, 739, 769, 775, 780, 785, 797, 800, 818, 906, 919, 940, 969, 982  
 Population, returns, character, &c. of the, 8, 30, 41, 52, 72, 84, 93, 106, 116, 125, 135, 154, 166, 176, 188, 198, 212, 223, 253, 269, 287, 298, 307, 328, 344, 366, 379, 394, 400, 428, 439, 447, 471, 501, 508, 525, 544, 568, 588, 602, 620, 645, 669, 706, 718, 723, 733, 749, 773, 777, 783, 792, 799, 811, 873, 917, 956, 977, 986  
 Pottery, Abbotshall, 157  
 Prestonhall house, 8  
 Priest's burn, 49  
 Printing, St Andrews, 497  
 Prior walls and croft, Crail, 964  
 Prior well, Balmerino, 580  
 Prior Letham Sycamore, the, 306  
 Priory of Crail, the, 964—May island, 612—Pittenweem, 985—St Andrews, 466  
 Prisons, Burntisland, 424—Cupar, 18—Dunfermline, 872, 910—Dyart, 145—Earlsferry, 336—Inverkeithing, 247—Kinghorn, 818—Kirkcaldy, 770—St Andrews, 495—St Monans, 54  
 Produce, average annual, 11, 34, 44, 53, 75, 85, 96, 108, 119, 125, 169, 177, 190, 200, 216, 226, 257, 269, 311, 331, 345, 368, 385, 396, 416, 476, 502, 511, 549, 572, 606, 623, 650, 671, 709, 793, 812, 882  
 Provisions, prices of, at various periods, 42  
 Pundler's Know, barrow called, 106  
 Quarantine frigate, the, 242  
 Quarries, freestone, 11, 23, 105, 196, 243, 257, 305, 346, 358, 408, 435, 475, 502, 559, 572, 605, 651, 693, 776, 841, 946, 978—limestone, 91, 105, 149, 169, 250, 257, 305, 323, 340, 406, 408, 435, 448, 520, 560, 570, 837, 916, 946—whinstone, 23, 47, 219, 243, 257, 475, 510, 518, 536, 605, 651, 693, 840  
 Queen of the Dean, tree called, 695  
 Queen's house, Dunfermline, ruins of the, 851  
 Queensferry, North, town of, 237, 242, 244, 876  
 Quern found in Collessie, 28—in Creich, 644  
 Radernie lime quarries, 305—village, 307  
 Railroads, Dunfermline, 895  
 Rain, fall of, Dunfermline, 826—St Andrews, 454  
 Raith house, 153, 801—lake, 148—property, 153—tower, 150, 153  
 Ramsay, Sir Andrew, 152—Sir William, 791  
 Randerstone, headland, 90  
 Rankeilour house, 41  
 Rathillet hill and house, 538—property, of, 551  
 Ravensraig castle, ruins of, 133



- Rector of St Andrew's University, the, 490  
 Red rocks at Dysart, the, 133  
 Redcraigs quarry, the, 840  
 Reddie, J., of Redhouse, improvements by, 169  
 Redwalls house, ruins of, 950—plantations at, 945  
 Redwells hill, 195  
 Reed Society of Kennoway, the, 386  
 Refectory of Dunfermline, ruins of the, 851  
 Regulus, a monk, traditions regarding, 449, 497  
 Reid, William, improvements by, 650—John, bequest by, 903  
 Relief church, origin of the, 238, 701  
 Rent, rates of, 10, 32, 43, 52, 73, 85, 96, 107, 125, 137, 155, 167, 178, 190, 199, 214, 225, 243, 254, 269, 288, 309, 331, 345, 366, 382, 395, 416, 430, 440, 447, 473, 502, 509, 526, 547, 569, 589, 603, 622, 647, 671, 709, 718, 723, 736, 752, 774, 778, 784, 794, 799, 811, 812, 883, 917, 935, 978, 987  
 Reres hill, 316, 319  
 Resby, Jacob, death of, 66, 459  
 Reston, Lord, 115  
 Rhynds house, 799  
 Richard II., destruction of Dunfermline by, 863  
 Richardson, Rev. Mr., settlement of, 702  
 Roads and bridges, 12, 34, 44, 53, 77, 86, 98, 103, 120, 140, 160, 170, 178, 201, 227, 257, 274, 289, 299, 311, 333, 348, 371, 386, 398, 419, 432, 442, 479, 512, 528, 553, 573, 593, 607, 624, 652, 711, 715, 736, 760, 774, 779, 781, 796, 814, 895, 936, 959, 981  
 Roadstead, Burntisland, 420  
 Robinson Crusoe, birthplace of the original, 436  
 Rock and spindle, rock called the, 456  
 Roman camps, remains, &c. Ballingry, 446—Carnock, 697, 705—Cults, 565—Dunearn, 411—Dunino, 366—Kemback, 722—Kinglassie, 197—Largo, 439—Leslie, 116—Leuchars, 223—Markinch, 663—Saline, 799  
 Rope works, Dunfermline, 890  
 Roscobie hills, 824—limestone quarries, 837, 838, 839—village, 874  
 Rossend castle, history of, 413  
 Rossie loch, drainage of, 22, 33  
 Rosslyn, Earl of, 135  
 Rosyth castle, ruins of, 239—church, ruins of, 246, 824  
 Rothes, family of, 114, 115, 599  
 Rothes bleachfield, 676—paper mills, 672  
 Rothesay, Duke of, notices of, 458, 924  
 Row, Rev. John, death and monument of, 699, 700—Principal, 700  
 Rowe, Rev. William, 523  
 Rowle, John, 985  
 Royal George, relic of the, 438  
 Rule, tradition regarding, 449  
 Russell and Co. bleachfield of, 573—Lord William, 772  
 Russell mill factory, 573  
 Rutherford, Samuel, 462  
 St Adrian, alleged coffin of, 620  
 St Adrian's chapel, ruins of, 612  
 St Andrews, town and parish of, 449—its origin, *ib.* 450—links, 451—its history, 458—first archbishop, 459—antiquities, 464—cathedral, 465—priory, 466—castle, 458, 467—shipping, &c. 477—Madras college, 482—university, 486  
 St Andrew's Church, Dunfermline, 897  
 St Ann's bleaching company, 527  
 St Bennet's chapel, ruins of, 223  
 St Bricedale house, 749  
 St Colme house, 188  
 St David's, harbour and village of, 183, 184, 188  
 St Dennis' chapel, ruins of, 134  
 St Fort hill, 506—house, 508—property, 507—woods, 509  
 St Glass's well, 194  
 St John's well, Balmerino, 580—Falkland, 938  
 St Leonard, 497  
 St Leonard's, parish of, 497—college, St Andrew's, 487—hospital, Dunfermline, 904—spinning-mills, 810, 813—tower, ruins of, 808  
 St Margaret's Hope, 231—origin of the name, 237  
 St Mary's burn, 1, 2  
 St Mary's chapel yard, 938  
 St Mary's college, St Andrews, 488  
 St Michael's church, site of, 5  
 St Minim's chapel, 966  
 St Monans or Abercrombie, parish of, 337—cell, 350, 966—history and description of the church, 350—village, 338, 344, 347  
 St Muggin's seat, 601  
 St Phillans or Forgan, parish of, 505  
 St Regulus or Rule, 449, 498  
 St Regulus' tower, ruins of, 464  
 St Rufus' priory and chapel, ruins of, 964  
 St Salvator's chapel, 502, 503—college, 487—tower, 492  
 Saline, parish of, 798—hills, 830—village, 799  
 Salmon fishing, state of the law of, 590  
 Salt, manufacture of, Dysart, 130—St David's, 186—Wemyss, 397  
 Sandilands, Sir James, 337  
 Sauchie burn, 195  
 Sauchope, standing stones at, 948, 955  
 Sauchur point, 283  
 Savings banks, 17, 45, 88, 100, 144, 171, 259, 276, 335, 354, 388, 401, 423, 444, 494, 714, 769, 785, 818, 891  
 Scarlet fever, ravages of, in Elie, 283  
 Scathe stone, the, 976  
 School hill of Cupar, 3, 5—of Burntisland, 404

- Schools, see Education  
 Scientific association, Dunfermline, 903  
 Scone, Lord, 929  
 Scoonie, parish of, 264  
 Scott, Rev. William, 6—Michael, residence and history of, 150, 151—of Balwearie, family of, 151—Thomas, Lord Abbotshall, 152—Sir William of Ardross, 279  
 Scrymgeour, Rev. John, 807  
 Sculptured stones, Creich, 640—Dunfermline, 849  
 Scurr hill, 578, 531  
 Sea, supposed encroachments of the, 427—various inundations of, 620  
 Seafeld tower, ruins of, 810  
 Seaton, chancellor, burial place of, 191  
 Seatons of Clatto, tradition regarding, 106  
 Seggie distillery, 226  
 Selden, Archbishop, 746  
 Selkirk, Alexander, birthplace of, 436  
 Senatus Academicus of St Andrews, 490  
 Seton of Parbroath, family of, 638—Alexander, first Earl of Dunfermline, 861, 866  
 Shank, Rev. Mr, bequest by, 819  
 Sharpe, Archbishop, 83, 460, 518, 954  
 Sheep, see Live Stock  
 Ship-building, Burntisland, 418  
 Shipping belonging to Aberdour, 718—Anstruther Easter, 299—and Wester, 623, 624—to Burntisland, 419—Crail, 963—Dunfermline, 891—Dysart, 139—Inverkeithing, 244—Kingshorn, 813—Kirkcaldy, 756—Largo, 441—Leven, 273—Newburgh, 76—St Andrews, 477—St Monans, 347  
 Shipwreck, losses of life by, St Monans, 341  
 Sibbald of Balgonie, 667—Dr George, 916  
 Sinclair, John, of Balgregie, 167  
 Sinclair town, village of, 135, 139  
 Skeith stone, 976  
 Smibert, Rev. Mr, 539  
 Smith, Adam, birthplace, &c. of, 115, 747—Michael, spinning mills of, 774  
 Smuggling in Auchterderran, 167—Dysart, 136—Kirkcaldy, 751—Leuchars, 224  
 Snuff-mill, Cupar, 11  
 Soap work, Dunfermline, 890  
 Societies, religious and charitable, 14, 16, 36, 142, 162, 247, 302, 335, 352, 388, 423, 443, 482, 493, 626, 687, 738, 766, 769, 816, 901  
 Sommerville, Mrs, 412  
 Southesk, Earls of, 220  
 Southfield house, 783  
 South Letham colliery, 835  
 Spankie, Sergeant, 933  
 Spinning mills, Ceres, 527—Cultra, 573—Cupar, 11—Dairsie, 774—Dunfermline, 890—Kemback, 724—Kingshorn, 810, 813—Kirkcaldy, 755—Largo, 441—Markinch, 773—Scoonie, 272—Strathmiglo, 779  
 Spital burn, 829  
 Spottiswoode, Sir Robert, execution of, 459—Archbishop, 461, 583, 772—Dr John, of Dairsie, 772  
 Spowart, James, of Venturefair, 833  
 Springfield house, 8—village, *ib.*  
 Stake-nets, decision of the law courts against, 591  
 Star, village of, 380  
 Starly burn, 405—harbour at, 420  
 Starr, farm of, 551—stone coffins found at, 544  
 Stenhouse, ruins of tower on, 414  
 Stewart, Duncan, 684  
 Stocks, Mr, of Arden, tenure of his property, 809  
 Stone, Jerome, birthplace of, 267  
 Stone coffins found in Abbotshall, 150—Abdie, 51—Aberdour, 717—Anstruther, 620—Balmerino, 587—Burntisland, 414—Collessie, 29—Creich, 644—Flisk, 601—Kilmarnock, 544—Kingsbarns, 92—Kirkcaldy, 748—Largo, 439—Leslie, 116—Leuchars, 223—Monimail, 41—Moonzie, 792—Scoonie, 268  
 Stones of Lundin, the, 267  
 Stormont, first Viscount, 931  
 Stratheden, 921  
 Strathendry, improvements at, 123—house, 116  
 Strathkiness quarries, 474—village and chapel, 479, 481  
 Strathmiglo, parish of, 775—village, 779—rocks at, 921  
 Strathore house, 749  
 Strange, James, Esq. 424  
 Stravithy castle, ruins of, 365  
 Struthers house, ruins of, 524  
 Submarine forest, Flisk, 597  
 Sunnybank, limestone quarry of, 839—sandstone, 841  
 Swan, Messrs, spinning mills of, 810, 813  
 Swinkie hill, urns found at, 955  
 Sword of the Bruce, the, 856  
 Sypsies, limestone at, 972—loch, 944  
 Tanneries, Anstruther, 298—Dunfermline, 890—Kilconquhar, 332  
 Tarvit house, 8—spinning mills, 527—tower, ruins of, 524  
 Tay river, 56, 57, 82, 506, 578, 579, 592, 596  
 Tayfield house, 508  
 Teasses house, 525—limestone quarries of, 520  
 Temple, village of, 442  
 Templehall house, 718  
 Tennant, professor, birth-place of, 297  
 Tents moor, the, 219  
 Tenure, curious, 809  
 Tequilats, quarry of, 520  
 Teuchats, lime quarry of, 520  
 Thirdpart woods, 974—house, 977  
 Thomas, Earl of Kellie, 916



- Thomson, Mr, Kilmany, improvements by, 538—Rev. James, monument to, 542—John A., bequest by, 556—William, bequest by, 627—John, bequest by, 768, 769—Rev. Mr, bequest by, 919
- Thornton, collieries of, 661—vitriol manufactory, 677—village and chapel, 682
- Three trees of Dysart, tradition regarding, 133
- Tides in the Frith of Forth, the, 405, 827
- Tiel water, 148, 249, 801
- Tiger Earl of Crawford, the, 789
- Tile works, Dunfermline, 890
- Tindal, Rev. John, 540
- Tobacco, manufacture of, Dunfermline, 890
- Tod, George, Esq. of Luthrie, 649, 651
- Tolbzies, stone called, 732
- Toldrie, urn found at, 955
- Torrie burn, 728—collieries, *ib.*—house, *ib.*, 733—paintings, 733—village, *ib.*
- Torryburn, parish of, 727—village, 732, 733
- Tour or Tower burn, 829
- Tower of Carnock, the, 705—of St Regulus, 464
- Towers, ruins of, Saline, 799
- Tower hill, Dunfermline, 823
- Town hall, Anstruther, 619
- Townhill colliery, 834, 837—village of, 874
- Town house, St Andrews, 470
- Town loch, Dunfermline, 823
- Traquair, Earl of, 266
- Trees, remarkable, Abbotshall, 150—Cameron, 306—Forgan, 509—Largo, 435
- Trinity church of St Andrews, the, 470
- Troustrie, quarry at, 946
- Tullideph, Principal, 462
- Tullis and Co., paper mills of, 672
- Tumuli, Aberdour, 717—Burntisland, 414—Collessie, 28—Kemback, 722—Kettle, 106—Leslie, 116—Saline, 799—Scoonie, 268—Strathmiglo, 777
- Turgot, bishop of St Andrews, 461
- Tyrie, ruins of chapel at, 810
- Union, effects of the, on Dysart, 132
- University commission, the, 491
- University of St Andrews, the, 486
- Urns, ancient, found in Abbotshall, 150—Abdie, 51—Aberdour, 717—Carnock, 705—Collessie, 29—Crail, 955—Creich, 644—Cults, 565—Dunino, 366—Flisk, 601—Kilmany, 544—Largo, 439—Scoonie, 268
- Urquhart, the first Lord, 861, 866
- Urquhart quarry, 841
- Venturefair colliery, 834
- Vitriol manufactory, Markinch, 677
- Wages, rates of, 42, 53, 73, 85, 97, 107, 119, 167, 178, 187, 200, 214, 243, 253, 254, 270, 288, 299, 309, 331, 346, 382, 416, 431, 447, 474, 509, 547, 570, 589, 603, 622, 647, 671, 724, 813, 882, 884, 889, 935, 959, 978
- Wallace, Sir William, 52
- Wallsend colliery, the, 831
- Walton hill, 558—Roman remains on, 565—village, 574
- Wardlaw, bishop, 478, 486—family of, 869—Sir Henry, 870, 904
- Watson, Mr, bequest by, 422—Principal, 462
- Weaving, Abbotshall, 157—Aberdour, 718—Auchtermuchty, 784—Balmerino, 588, 592—Carnock, 709—Creich, 651—Cults, 572—Dairsie, 774—Dunfermline, 886—Dysart, 138—Ferry Port-on-Craig, 85—Forgan, 511—Kennoway, 385—Kettle, 108—Kilconquhar, 332—Kilmany, 546—Kingsbarns, 98—Kirkcaldy, 752—Leslie, 119—Leuchars, 226—Markinch, 674—Newburgh, 75—St Monans, 347—Scoonie, 272—Strathmiglo, 778—Torryburn, 735
- Wedderslie hill, 31
- Wellwood, Andrew, of Garvock, 833
- Wellwood collieries, 833, 835—village, 874
- Wemyss, Rev. Patrick, 161—Sir Michael, 392—Captain, 402—Principal, 600—Rev. David, 913, 918
- Wemyss, parish of, 390—castle, 391, 393—hall, 7—villages, 398, 400
- West, John, the mathematician, 428
- West of Fife Agricultural Association, 893
- West Balrymonth hill, 450
- Westbarns house, 977
- Westbridge, village of, 811—*quoad sacra* parish of, 815
- West Coaltown, village of, 398, 400
- Wester Anstruther, parish of, 611—town, 620, 623, 629
- Wester Bogie house, 154
- Wester Gallaton, village of, 139
- Westfield house, 8
- West Lomond hill, 775
- Westport of Falkland, the, 937
- West Wemyss, ruins of chapel at, 393—village and harbour, 398, 400
- Whale fishing, Burntisland, 417—Kirkcaldy, 756
- Whinny hall, quarries of, 406
- Whinny hill, the, 696
- Whirly Kip cairn, &c. 601
- Whitehill cottage, 718
- Wild boar, former abundance of, St Andrews, 456
- Wilkie, Sir David, birthplace, &c. of, 26, 565—Professor, 462—Rev. Robert, 500—Rev. David, 565, 567
- Wilson, Dr, 462
- Winds, prevalent, Dunfermline, 826
- Windsor Castle, wreck of the, 943
- Winram, superior of St Andrews, 364
- Winthank, quarries of, 305

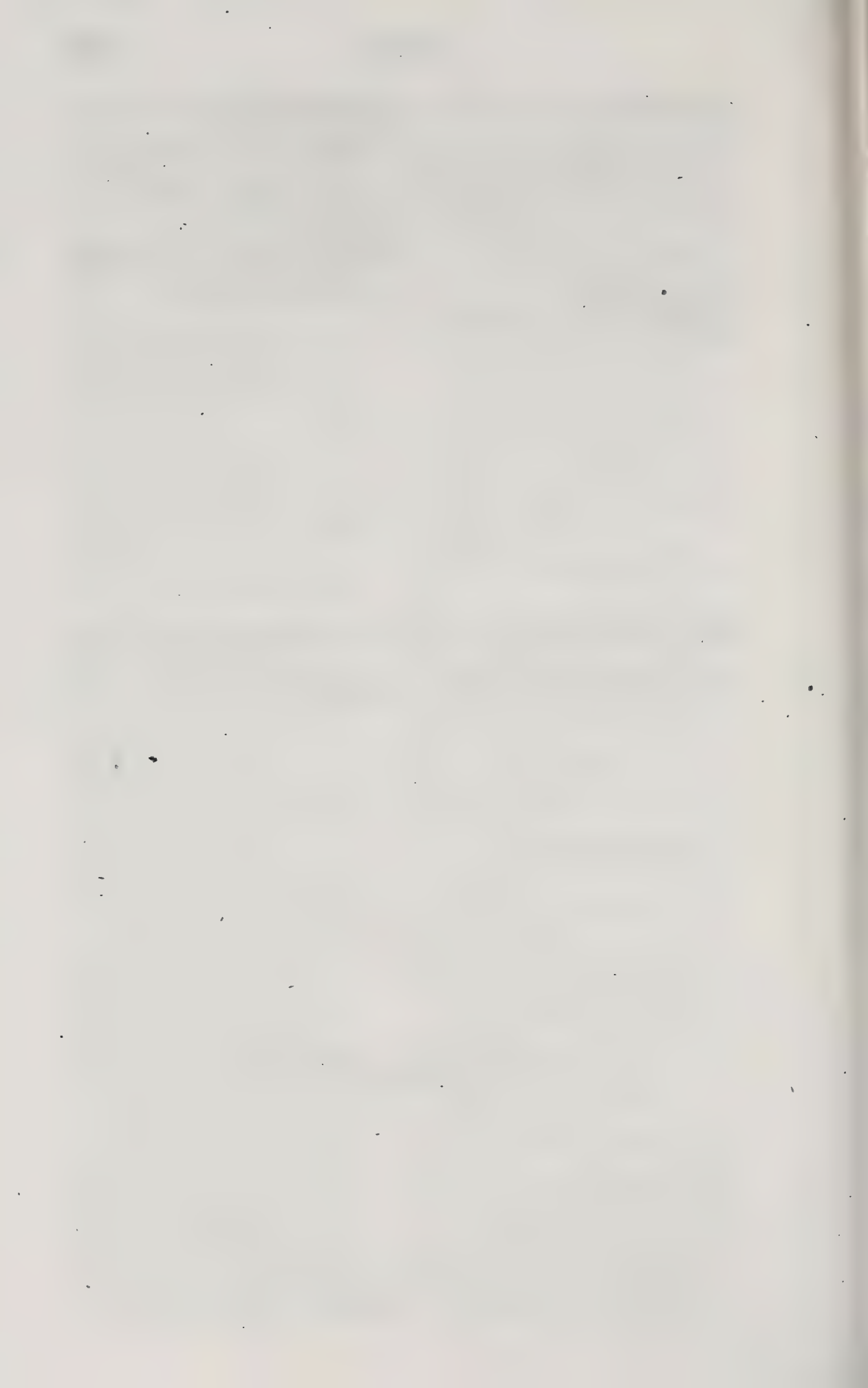
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|--|--|
| <p>Wishart, George, martyrdom of, 459—<br/>           bishop, 468<br/>         Witch lake, the, 456<br/>         Witchcraft in Anstruther, 612—Dysart,<br/>           133—Newburgh, 73—Torryburn, 732<br/>         Wood, John, bequest by, 126—Rev.<br/>           James, 364—Sir Andrew, 436, 438—<br/>           John, 436—Mrs, bequest by, 442—<br/>           Professor, 462<br/>         Wood of Forth, site of the, 434<br/>         Wood's hospital, 444<br/>         Woods, see Plantations<br/>         Woodhaven harbour, 506, 514—ferry,<br/>           512</p> | <p>Woodhill quarry, 840 .<br/>         Woodside, village of, 442<br/>         Woodtop quarry, 520<br/>         Wormistone house, 951 — plantations,<br/>           945<br/>         Wormit bay, 506, 578—den, 578<br/>         Wyntoun, Andrew, 461<br/>         Yoolfield mills, 527, 724<br/>         Zoology, 4, 39, 48, 113, 196, 207, 233,<br/>           251, 325, 359, 409, 428, 456, 536, 598,<br/>           618, 694, 724, 844, 923, 972</p> |
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ERRATA.

- P. 315, line 5, *for* Ceauniuchair *read* Ceaun-iuchair and Kil-ceauniuchair or Kilcon-  
 quhar.
- P. 989, et seq. *for* population 1831, *read* population 1841.





K I N R O S S .





## CONTENTS.

---

CLEISH,	.	.	.	.	PAGE 32
KINROSS,	.	.	.	.	1
ORWELL,	.	.	.	.	52
PORTMOAK,	.	.	.	.	30





## PARISH OF KINROSS.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. GEORGE BUCHANAN, D.D. MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name was formerly written *Kynross* or *Kynrosse*. The word is of Gaelic origin, signifying *the head of the promontory*, and referring to the position of the parish at the extremity of a point of land running into the lake. This seems to be a better explanation of the name of the town and parish than that assigned in the former Statistical Account, viz. that it stands at the head of that tract lying betwixt the Friths of Forth and Tay, which had the appellation of *Ross* or the *Peninsula*. The etymology now given has the sanction of Christopher Irvine, whose work, entitled *Historiæ Scoticæ Nomenclatura*, contains these words: “*Kinrossium*. The town of Kinross, lying at the beginning or head of a point of land that runneth into the west side of Lochleven, and this is the reason of its name in the old language.” (See his work, p. 117, Edinburgh, 1683.)

*Extent, &c.*—The parish of Kinross hardly extends 4 miles in length from east to west, and  $3\frac{1}{2}$  from south to north, and contains about 14 square miles. It is bounded on the east by the lake, (which leaves only a small portion of land betwixt it and the town,) and part of the parish of Orwell; on the south, by an angle of the parish of Portmoak and by the parish of Cleish; on the west, by the united parish of Tullibole and Fossaway; and on the north, by that of Orwell. It forms a sort of trapezium.

There are no eminences within the parish to which the appellation of mountains, or even of hills, can in strict propriety be applied, and hence its area is often called the *laigh* or level of Kinross, presenting, in this respect, a striking contrast to the heights of the four adjoining parishes. The surface of Lochleven is 360 feet and odds above the level of the sea; but the most elevated portion of the parish is not 100 feet above the surface of the lake.

*Meteorology.*—The altitude of the parish, the range of the Cleish and Ochil hills skirting it both on the south and north, and



the evaporation of the waters of the lake, all concur in rendering the climate of Kinross parish, moist, cold, and variable. So far as this climate depends on evaporation, a great improvement has been accomplished, and will go on, by means of the recent operations upon Lochleven, and the increasing exertions of cultivators of the soil to convert wet land into dry; of which, more particular mention will be made in a subsequent part of this account.

About sixty years ago, agues were very prevalent, in consequence of the marshes and stagnant water which then abounded. Now, a case of ague is seldom to be met with. Rheumatism, often proceeding from the same causes as ague, or at least very much aggravated by them, is both of rare occurrence and less severe than before.

It is also not unworthy of remark, that our harvest frosts, which some years ago left the potato stems in the lower grounds altogether black, while in the upper they remained fresh and green,—are now far less frequently attended with these effects. And to what is this so much to be attributed as to a less copious exhalation?

*Hydrography.*—Throughout this parish, there lie scattered many perennial springs, “as clear as crystal, and as cold as ice,” arising from a sandy or gravelly bottom. They yield water of excellent quality. But there is none to which recourse is had for any medicinal or chemical purposes.

Among the different objects connected with the parish of Kinross, there is none which imparts to it so much celebrity, interest, attraction, and value, as the magnificent sheet of water which forms its eastern boundary. The pen and the pencil have been so often employed in the description of this lake, and have been employed so well, that nothing of the kind is required or will be looked for in this Account.

Yet it may not be unnecessary to observe, that while the operations which the lake has given rise to within these few years, have certainly taken from its general impressiveness, as well as from its extent, it still presents an appearance on which the admirer of nature delights to dwell. The appearance referred to, in calm weather, and under an unclouded sky, is that of mild beauty, rather than of picturesque grandeur. Under moonlight, and when “all the air a solemn stillness holds,” the views from the road leading to the old church-yard are in no ordinary degree sweet and soothing.

Now that Lochleven has been subjected to a considerable drain-

age, its extent or circuit is 12 miles, being 3 less than in its original state, its depth 14 feet at its medium height, being  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet less than formerly.

“The surface of the loch,” says Dr Fleming of Aberdeen, in his Interim Report on its Fishings, “previous to the late partial drainage, extended to 4638 imperial acres. It is now diminished from the high-water flood to the top of the spill-water 1095 acres, thus leaving its maximum state at 3543 acres, according to the testimony of the Commissioners. By this mode of estimating the change, the loch would appear to have been diminished about one-fourth of its extent. But the water is seldom if ever allowed to rise to the height of the spill-water. Hence it appears expedient to increase by one-third, 365 acres, the recognized diminution of 1095 acres, thus making in all the diminution of the area of the loch, and its consequent value, as it may be viewed as a fish-pond, of 1460 acres, as equal to one-third of its former dimensions.”

Within the circuit of Lochleven there are several islands, but all inconsiderable and insignificant, with the exception of two, one of which is the island of St Serf or Servanus, or the Inch, which the parish of Portmoak claims as its own, and which, as such, has been described in the old Statistical Account of that parish. The other, although considerably smaller, being only five acres in extent, is commonly called the Castle Island or Castle, in consequence of an ancient fort and buildings being connected with it, which cover a great part of its surface. The oldest and largest building, (and for the particulars of which the last Statistical Account may be consulted,) is ascribed to a king of the Picts. In the absence of any thing like historical certainty on this point, it seems more reasonable to believe that many additions and alterations have taken place in the course of centuries, than to suppose, as Dr Walker (in his *Essays on Natural History and Rural Economy*, under the head *Lochleven*,) has done, that, from its form, it appears to have been built in the time of James II. of Scotland, who began to reign in 1436. Indeed, the facts to be afterwards mentioned render such an opinion altogether untenable.

When, in the progress of arts and manufacturing industry, a very considerable number of mills and bleachfields, requiring a large and permanent supply of water, had been erected on the Leven, which runs out of the lake, and when in a dry season that supply was often quite inadequate for the purpose,—it became an object of no small moment to the owners of these works, to render the basin of Lochleven



a reservoir on which they could depend throughout the year. But the means to be employed for this object, were the very same which made it for the interest of the landed proprietors around the lake, and of none so much as the proprietor of Kinross estate, to unite with the owners of the mills and bleachfields in taking steps to diminish the extent of the lake,—a work which, by lessening its evaporation, gave a more equable and steady supply to its outlet, while it added to the arable acres of the district. Accordingly, George Graham, Esq. of Kinross, first moved in the scheme, and after him Thomas Graham, Esq. with still more activity. It was not, however, until after the decease of this gentleman, and during the minority of his grandson, Graham Montgomery, Esq. son of Sir James Montgomery, Bart. that all opposition and difficulty were surmounted.

*Geology.*—The rocks are sandstone, limestone, and trap or whinstone. The sandstone consists of two varieties, one of which belongs to the old red sandstone formation, and the other to the under carboniferous group. No good section of either occurs within the parish, and our knowledge of the existence of the former is chiefly obtained from an examination of the geognosy and structure of the surrounding district. The old red prevails throughout the entire extent of Stratheden, flanking the southern slope of the Ochils from Strathmiglo westwards, and cropping out at various places in the neighbouring parish of Orwell, whence it ranges in a south-westerly direction through the basin of which Kinross occupies the centre. It consists of two beds, the lower of which is an extremely coarse conglomerate, containing fragments of quartz, granite, slate, hornblende, felspar, and several members of the trap family, varying from the size of a garden pea to three or four inches in diameter: the upper bed is fine-grained, hard and compact, and forms an excellent building stone. The dip varies from an angle of  $8^{\circ}$  to  $12^{\circ}$ . No organic remains have been detected in this deposit in any of the quarries in the vicinity. Binnarty hill rests upon a yellow sandstone, which differs in its mineralogical character from the sandstone of the coal-field, and which is supposed to be more nearly allied to the old red. But the intervention of the loch and other obstructions prevent any satisfactory researches being made into the nature of this interesting deposit, so far as its range is connected with the parish of Kinross.

The carboniferous sandstone occurs in the western division of the parish on the farm of the property of Mr Spowart. It is said to contain beds of coal, but to what extent this valuable combusti-

ble exists in the locality is still matter of conjecture only. The position of this rock is sufficiently indicated by its relation to a similar deposit in the adjacent parish of Cleish, where it underlies the mountain limestone: and to the westward a few miles, near the Crook of Devon, the old red again emerges. If such be its true position, as we have every reason to believe that it is, any beds of coal that may be found in it will be such as are characteristic of the group with which it is connected, amounting, as in other places, to two or three in number, and of inconsiderable thickness. Limestone accompanies this sandstone, but of what quality and extent, whether it belongs to the carboniferous limestone, or to the cornstone of the old red sandstone series, we have not the means of determining. No section of these rocks is exposed to view; a thick covering of aluminous earth overlies the surface; but the intelligent proprietor, from his excavations and drainings, as well as great practical knowledge of the minerals of the district, has been enabled to ascertain the existence of a calcareous deposit beneath.

Whinstone, or rather porphyry, is no less sparingly distributed in this parish. Two varieties only occur, namely, compact felspar, and claystone porphyry. The former is quarried towards the south side of the parish at Calcarnie, and occupies the ridge to the westwards. This rock is extremely close and compact in texture, and is much used as a road metal. It has a reddish ash-grey colour, and contains minute crystals of hornblende and carbonate of lime. The claystone porphyry, which is of a mixed iron-red and ochreous colour, may be observed behind the farm-steading of Calcarnie, and seems to run in the form of a vein in a north-easterly and south-westerly direction. It is traversed by veins of carbonate of lime, and also contains large masses of the same, along with crystals of glassy felspar and augite. It is stained in various places with dark-green spots, which would seem to indicate the presence in small quantities, of copper, and which arise in all probability from the oxidation of that metal. Boulders of the primitive rocks are abundantly distributed, consisting of granite, quartz, mica slate, hornblende and greenstone. None of these are of very large dimensions, but all are much water-worn, and bear sufficient marks of attrition to which they have been subjected in the course of their transportation. Masses of diluvium, of considerable depth, may be observed in several localities, and which consists chiefly of the debris of the old red sandstone.



If Mr Spowart, who is well acquainted, and is still connected, with working of coal at Dunfermline, on an extensive scale, shall fail in discovering, as he once hoped to do, that mineral in his lands in this parish, none need make a subsequent attempt.

*Zoology.*—Passing from a subject of inquiry, in which, so far as this parish is concerned, little is to be added to the general stock of mineralogical information, the next branch of natural history, viz. zoology, is one in which there is much more variety, and the materials are much more interesting.

It is much to be feared that one of the effects of the late partial drainage of the lake, has been the destruction of some of the species of the fish, together with the diminution of the number and deterioration of the quality of others. Certain of the sorts of which Dr Walker has written, seem now to be extinct, and the char, *Salmo alpinus*, one of the finest fishes of the loch, has almost disappeared; in so much that Dr Fleming, so well known as a zoologist, and who has been appointed a valuator of the damage done to the fishing of Lochleven by the above-mentioned partial drainage, estimates it at L. 73, 6s. 8d. per annum. The three circumstances to which the learned Doctor ascribes this permanent injury are, *first*, the curtailment of the area of the loch, *secondly*, the continued abstraction of the fish by the currents at the new sluices, and *lastly*, the barrenness of the new margin of the lake. The weight of some of the trout has been  $6\frac{1}{2}$  lbs. of 22 oz. to the pound; nay, one was caught nearly 18 lb. Pike has been caught in 1822, wanting only half-a-pound of two stones, or 42 lb. Dutch weight.

The trouts of Lochleven feed on insects of every description, and very much on red earthworms, and insects from the side of the loch. According to Mr James M'Gill, who has spent the greater part of his life at Kinross, and who is uncommonly well acquainted with the natural history of the district, many of the fishes in Lochleven devour others. There are some that prey on minnows, and some on shell-fish of every description; but these last are trouts of inferior quality. That which seems to give the high colour to the fish of the lake, is the animalculæ they feed on, imperceptible to the naked eye. These minute insects are very abundant, and trouts in full season are always gorged with them. They resemble jelly after they have remained a little while in the stomach of the fish. When the contents of their stomach are not dried, the colour is of a light pink; when dried, red.

The fishing of Lochleven, which begins on the first of January

and ends on the first of September, is at present let for seven years, at L. 204 per annum. The price of trout, which thirty years ago was 4d. is now 1s. a-pound at Kinross, although often lower at Edinburgh, Glasgow, and even at Manchester, where there has been of late a regular market for it. Pikes are sold at 2d. a pound, and perches, which are most plentiful during the heat of summer, at 2d. a-dozen. There is now no stated fishing of eels, as formerly, from August till December. Two boats and four boatmen are employed during one part of the fishing season. The two men employed throughout the whole of it have 11s. a-week; the other two, whose labours are confined to the summer months only, 10s. With regard to the fishes, it is further to be noticed, that they ascend the tributary streams of the lake, ready to spawn by the middle of August, and continue to do so nearly the whole month of February.

We here add an extract from an article in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh for 1839, entitled "Account of a new species of British Bream, and of an undescribed species of Skate: to which is added a List of the Fishes of the Frith of Forth, and its tributary streams, with observations, by Richard Parnell, M.D., F.R.S., E., &c.

"*Salmo cœcifer*, Parnell, (bearing cœca,—the cœca being more numerous than in any of its congeners;) *Salmo Levenensis*, Walker, Lochleven trout, common in Lochleven. This species of trout, which is well known to many persons as a delicious article of food, is considered by most naturalists as a variety of the *Salmo fario* or common fresh water trout, the redness of its flesh depending on the nature of its food. I consider it, however, not only as distinct from the *Salmo fario*, but as one of the best defined and most constant in its characters of all the species hitherto described. It is at once distinguished from the common fresh water trout by the number of its cœcal appendages, which vary from seventy to eighty, whereas in the *Salmo fario* they are never more than forty-five or forty-six in number. Its tail is crescent-shaped at all ages, and its body has never a vestige of a red spot. The tail of the *common trout* is sinuous, and at length even at the end, and its body is almost always marked with red spots, besides its flesh being always of a white appearance.

"I have no doubt that more than two species of trout are to be met with in our fresh water streams, which at present receive the name of *Salmo fario*."—P. 154.



Referring to the birds that repair to Lochleven, it is deserving of notice, that a new one made its appearance about thirty years ago. It became very tame, and was called the Swedish crossbill. It comes in autumn, and its coming was thought to prognosticate bad weather. It feeds on buds and cones of fir. It frequents the plantings at the churchyard. Its colour is red, resembling that of a parrot. The bill crosses, and hence the name of *cross-bill*.

*Botany*.—There are three plants found in the parish of Kinross, which that eminent botanist, Dr Arnott of Arlary, has not yet observed elsewhere in the county. The one is *Cheiranthus cheiri*, var. *fruticulosus*, (or wallflower), growing on Lochleven Castle; the other is *Cerastium arvense*, found at Lathro, nearly opposite to the gate at Lethangie, east approach; the third is *Bromus sterilis*, on the roadside to the church-yard.

There were some trees of a stunted appearance betwixt the lands of Lethangie and Kinross, or Lochleven, by report and appearance, several centuries old, which were lately cut down. There are trees in the avenue that attract, by their size and form, the attention of the stranger. There is a beautiful walnut in front of the mansion house; and a remarkable ash in the Castle island, which was split by lightning, and part of which rests on the western wall of the castle.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

Of this parish, as such, there are no accounts, so far as the writer of these pages has either seen or heard, nor any maps, plans, or surveys. Of the county of Kinross, there has been a very correct map by Rennie. Of the counties of Kinross and Fife, a very handsome as well as accurate one was published by an English company a few years ago.

In *Gough's British Topography*, Vol. ii. 1780, it is stated that Andrew Rutherford drew a view of the beautiful thorn tree, near Kinross, and of Lochleven Castle. In Pont's Maps of Scotland in the Advocates' Library, folio xvii., there is one of Kinross-shire, described 28th October 1642, by James Gordon of "Keanross," with the loch and adjacent countries, sixteen inches and a half by thirteen and a half. This is the oldest map of the county, and a great curiosity.

*Eminent Characters*.—One of the first of these is Sir William Bruce, who built the mansion-house of Kinross. He was architect to Charles II. The Palace of Holyrood was his design, as were also Hopetoun and Moncreiff Houses. Kinross House was

originally intended for the residence of James, Duke of York, afterwards James VII. of Scotland, in the event of his being prevented by the Exclusion Bill from succeeding to his brother.

It must be added, that Dr John Thomson, the present distinguished Professor of General Pathology in the University of Edinburgh, is a native of this parish.

*Ministers of the Parish.*—Clergymen within and without the Establishment, who were born or carried on their ministerial labours in this parish, were respected and esteemed in their day, and have left behind them memorials, shewing that, for their contemporaries and posterity, they did not live in vain. The Rev. Robert Stark, although his settlement in 1732, was nearly coeval with the rise of the Secession Church, and was the occasion of much division and strife, was a superior preacher, and, in particular, the author of an essay on the Ethiopian of the Acts of the Apostles, which has been much admired both by Churchmen and Dissenters. The Rev. John Swanston, ordained minister of the Associate congregation of Kinross, 23d January 1748, was appointed to the office of Professor of Divinity in May 1764. This office, along with that of Minister of the Gospel, he held at Kinross, until his death at Perth on the 12th of June 1767. His biographer, Mr Fraser, minister at Kennoway, speaks of him as equally distinguished by the eminence of his piety and the depth of his theological attainments. A volume of his discourses, rich in the grace and truth of the gospel, has been long in the hands of the Christian public. The incumbent of Kinross parish immediately preceding the present, preached before the Synod of Glasgow and Ayr a sermon, afterwards published, on the subject and manner of apostolical preaching.

The ministers of Kinross parish since the Reformation, as far as the writer can ascertain, are as follows :—James Dolby, or Dobie, or Dowie, first-mentioned, A. D. 1567 ;—had under his superintendence the kirks of Orwell and Ballingry, while Mr Walter Balfour and Mr Alexander Wardlaw were readers and exhorters ; Robert Rait, 1590 ; John Colden, 1607,—conformed to presbytery in 1638, and died in 1640 ; Mr George Colden, probably a son of the former, admitted 1641, and died in 1665. Of George Colden it is reported that he died at St Andrews, whither he had gone to have an interview with Archbishop Sharp on some of the rights and interests of his benefice, but where he met with no redress or satisfaction. Such was the attachment borne to this minister, that a number of his people went to St Andrews, and bore his mortal remains to Kinross as his place of interment. Mr James Forsyth



was translated from Moonzie to Kinross, 23d November 1665; Mr Henry Christie was settled in 1682, and ejected for not praying for William and Mary in 1689; he was, afterwards, in 1709, consecrated as a nonjuring bishop, and died in Kinross, in 1718, with the respect and affection of all who knew him. In Kinross churchyard, there is still to be seen the tombstone of Mr Christie, having a brass plate and a Latin epitaph in verse. Mr William Spence, next in order, was admitted 1689; Mr Robert Macgill, 1699; Mr Robert Stark, 1732; Mr Archibald Smith, 1784; the present incumbent, 1804.

Speaking of religious persons connected with Lochleven, it may not be improper to mention that, at the dissolution of the monasteries, Robert Pitcairn, commendator of the Abbey of Dunfermline, and Secretary of State to James VI. in the regency of Lennox, died in the castle of Lochleven, 1584, aged sixty-four. He was one of those engaged in the *Raid of Ruthven*, and as such, was carried prisoner to Lochleven. He was Royal Legate as well as Secretary to James VI. His tomb is in Dunfermline churchyard; and on the lintel of a house occupied by him in the Maygate there is this couplet:

Sin word is thral and thocht is fre  
Keep weil thy tongue I counsel the.

*Chief Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Graham Montgomery, Esq., eldest son of Sir James Montgomery, of Stanhope, Bart. by the younger daughter of the late Thomas Graham of Kinross and Burleigh, Esq; and the Earl of Kinnoul, who lately purchased the lands of Colden, &c. once the property of Charles Stein, Esq. of Hattonburn.

*Parochial Registers.*—The Session records extant contain the acts of that court from 8th October 1665 until 13th May 1683. There is also at the end of these records, a register of baptisms, from April 1676 to March 1684. There is a second series from the 20th of May 1683 to the 29th September 1689, with a register of baptisms from the 24th July 1684 to the 23d of August 1689, when the minister, Mr Christie, was removed. The third begins the 29th May 1699, and ends 9th November 1718. The fourth begins 29th January 1719, and ends 24th July 1741. The fifth is from 28th September 1741, to 26th March 1753. The sixth, from 17th April 1753 to 24th July 1754. There is a register of baptisms in a quarto volume from 30th April 1699, and ending 2d April 1727, together with a register of proclamations from the 23d of May 1699, to the 6th of January 1727. Another similar, from 9th April 1727 till 16th April

1770. A register of burying-grounds; and a register of deaths, from 1733 to 1735. Loose minutes beginning the 4th of July 1754, and ending 6th March 1771. From 1772 the session records are complete; and now every minute is subscribed by the moderator.

From the Session records, it appears to have been the practice more than a century ago, of a part of the kirk-session visiting the town during the time of public worship, and making a report to their brethren.

*Antiquities, &c.*—In the month of June 1820, a number of silver coins were discovered on the lands of Coldon, to the south of Kinross, having been turned up by workmen in one of the fields. When found, they were quite covered with a black coating darker than the earth from which they were dug. The number might amount from 300 to 400, and were found to consist chiefly of the coinage of Edward the First and Edward the Second of England. They were of the denomination commonly called *silver pennies*, and seem to have come from various mints, *e. g.* London, Canterbury, York, Durham, Lincoln, and Dublin. Some of them, instead of having the place of coinage, had on the reverse the name *Robert de Hadeleir* surrounding the  $\times$ . Along with these English coins, a few Scotch were found of Alexander III. and John Baliol. They very much resembled the English in size and appearance. If they differed in any thing, it was that they were rather more handsome:—the King's head was a profile with a crown and sceptre surrounded by *Alexander Dei Gra.* and *Joannes Dei Gra.* The reverse had a  $\times$  with four stars, surrounded by *Rex Scotorum*. When and how these coins came to be deposited in the place where they were discovered, is a matter of conjecture. Most probably, they had been lost by some person attached to one of the English armies, who, in the period of the sovereigns referred to, and thereafter, so frequently occupied the country in the vicinity of Kinross, for the purpose of getting possession of the Castle of Lochleven, or of overawing that fortress, then a place of considerable strength and importance.

In the month of April 1829, some labourers employed by John W. Williamson, Esq. Banker, Kinross, in examining his grounds at West Green, found, about two feet below the surface, imbedded in what appeared to be travelled earth, an ancient seal of pure gold, of a circular shape, eight-tenths of an inch in diameter, and two-tenths of an inch in thickness. It has two small wings also of gold joined in the centre by a neat hinge, which folds flat on the upper side of the seal, and when raised serves for a handle. This very curious piece of



workmanship, weighing four sovereigns, appears from its flat shape to have been intended for the pocket; and as it has engraved on it the royal arms of Scotland impaled on the dexter side, with those of England on the sinister, it was at once considered, according to the laws of heraldry, as the private seal or signet of a Scottish King, who had married an English princess. The seal was shewn to several Edinburgh antiquaries; and among others, to the late Sir Walter Scott, the late Sir Patrick Walker, Mr Auriol Hay, and Mr William Clerk, all of whom were decidedly of opinion, that it was the personal seal of the unfortunate James IV., who fell on the fatal field of Flodden. James, it is well known, married Margaret, daughter of Henry VII. of England.

The seal is in perfect preservation, and affords a favourable view of the art of engraving in Scotland more than three centuries ago. How this relic of the olden time found its way to Kinross, must be mere conjecture; yet is it no great stretch of imagination, that the ill-fated Mary had possession of this memorial of her grandfather, and may have dropt it in making her escape from the Castle of Lochleven? A more probable opinion may be hazarded; which is, that James himself may have lost this seal while hunting or travelling from his palace of Falkland to Stirling, Kinross being in the direct line betwixt these two royal residences. This view is strengthened by the fact, that there was found at the same time with the seal, and within a few yards of it, the corroded fragment of a horse's shoe,—a circumstance which would lead us to suppose, that the royal charger, in losing a shoe, had stumbled, and thrown his rider, when the seal dropt from his person.

In 1822, the proprietor of Lathro, on trenching some of his grounds which had been planted sixty or seventy years before, came upon thirteen graves, which did not appear to contain any coffins; but in one of them were two bodies, and a skull filled with undecayed teeth. This burying-ground was on an eminence beside the ground trenched, and called the *Gallows Know*, and hence it is naturally supposed to have been the place of public execution. This burying-ground must have been used before the abolition of heritable jurisdictions, and when the proprietors of the estate of Kinross had the power of pit and gallows. With regard to the bodies discovered, they were again committed to the earth, and the spot where they were found has been planted anew.

The Castle of Lochleven, so far back as 1257, was a royal residence. We read that, in that year, Alexander III. and his youth-

ful queen were forcibly laid hold upon in this place, and carried off to Stirling. In Balfour's Annals, we have mention made of Sir John Comyn in 1301 raising the siege of Lochleven, then besieged by the English. In 1335, as has been related by Buchanan, Abercromby, Sir David Dalrymple, (and for a particular account of which transaction see *Forduni Scotichronicon*, Vol. ii. p. 313, Edinburgh, 1759, folio,) Sir John Strevelyn invested Lochleven, at that time held by Alan Vypont, in the interest of David II. and was compelled to raise the siege with great loss. In 1429, Archibald Earl of Douglas, on account of some inconsiderate speeches against his sovereign James I., was committed a prisoner to the same castle; and in 1477, Patrick Graham, an eminent dignitary of the Scottish Church, and Archbishop of St Andrews, was, by a sentence of deprivation and imprisonment pronounced by Pope Sextus VI. (1484), and a college of cardinals, committed first to a cell in Inchcolm, removed thence to the monastery of Dunfermline, and lastly, for greater security, to Lochleven, where he died, and whence his mortal remains were carried to the island of St Serf. The Earl of Northumberland, who had taken refuge in Scotland to avoid the effects of Queen Elizabeth's displeasure, was also consigned to Lochleven Castle in 1569. The then ruling party placed and kept him there for three years, when he was removed to England, and there put to death by his sovereign.

But all these are unimportant events in comparison of those that befel a Queen of Scotland, the most illustrious and most interesting, perhaps, that ever swayed a sceptre, by her beauty and personal qualities, as well as the lengthened train of calamities to which she was subjected, and the termination of a captivity of twenty years, on a scaffold, by the hands of the public executioner. It appears from a deed printed in Laing's "Dissertation on the Murder of Darnley," and entitled "Act for sequestrating the Quenis Majesties person, and detening the same in the hous and place of Lochlevin, 16 June 1567;" that the unfortunate Mary was in Lochleven on the 16th June 1567. None acquainted with her eventful and tragical story can be ignorant of the manner of her escape, on Sunday the 2d of May 1568. We are informed, in the history of Mary's escape from Lochleven, that when her deliverer had opened the gates of the castle and shut them again, he threw the keys into the lake. Now, it is not undeserving of record, that, at the close of the very dry autumn of 1805, when the lake was uncommonly low, a boy, who



had been sauntering along its brink, picked up a bunch of keys, which he carried immediately to the parish schoolmaster, the late Mr John Taylor,—in whose possession the writer of this account has frequently had occasion to see them. They were very rusty, and fastened by an iron ring, which mouldered away on being rubbed by the hand. Mr Taylor sent them to the late Earl of Morton, heritable keeper of Lochleven, from whom he received a suitable gratuity to the finder, L. 5 to the poor, and a handsome silver inkholder to himself.

*Modern Buildings.*—The latest of these, and the most conspicuous from whatever quarter it is viewed, is the parish church, first employed for public worship on the 11th of March 1832. Before 1742 the parish church stood within the old burying-ground, immediately beside the lake. It was then removed from this situation to another at the west of the town, which, gradually extending its dimensions, came at length to place the church in its centre, as well as in the very front of the most frequented inn.

The situation of this second church being very inconvenient, at the same time that it was also inadequate in size for the growing population, a handsome edifice of the Gothic kind has been erected on a rising ground adjoining the manse, and altogether removed from the noise and bustle of the town thoroughfare. It cost L. 1537, 11s. 6d.

The *County Hall*, which is also the public gaol, is a still finer building. It was finished in 1826, and cost L. 2000, of which L. 750 formed a grant from Government, and the remainder was raised by a voluntary assessment from the heritors of the county, according to the oldvalued rent. It consists of a course of apartments, of which there are 2 for the sheriff-clerk, 1 record room and safe, 1 court room, 1 witnesses room, 3 debtors rooms, 2 cells, and a guard-room.

There are three mills within the parish, the first and most important of which goes by the name of Kinross mill, and is for all manner of grain; the second, within a quarter of a mile of the town, is Balleave, once for grain, but now employed in the new tartan manufactory; the third, at West Tillyochie, about three miles from Kinross, once also occupied in grinding corn, but within these few months, taken in lease by one of the three tartan manufacturing companies here for the purposes of carding and spinning of wool on an extended scale; the first attempt of the kind in this quarter, but only, it is to be hoped, the commencement of a new era of our manufacturing industry.

## III.—POPULATION.

The population of the parish has been on the increase ever since it was examined into.

In 1755, it was	1310
1792, .	1839
1801, .	2124
1811, .	2214
and in 1831, .	2927

Among the more usual causes of the increase of population may be noticed a *mortification*, as it is termed, of land to the value of from L. 80 to L. 100 of yearly rent, which, on the death of a female of eighty years of age, who receives an annuity of L. 50, will come to be divided among the domiciled poor. Such bequest, it is greatly to be feared, may prove a premium to idleness, and a strong inducement to vagrants to terminate their wanderings here. The neighbourhood of coal, and the cheapness of living, may also contribute to the growing population of the parish.

The number of the inhabitants of Kinross, is about 2200, and of the rest of the parish 727.

The number of proprietors of land of the yearly value of L. 50 and upwards, (including two properties, one of which belongs to the British Linen Company, and the other is disposed in trust to the heritors of this parish,) is 25.

From a census made for this work, the number of inhabited houses in Kinross appears to be 566; of these unlet, 26; in ruins, 5.

There are 3 persons in the parish more or less insane or fatuous, but not requiring confinement; 4 blind, 4 deaf and dumb, and 1 in the Deaf and Dumb Institution, Edinburgh.

*Character of the People.*—The general character of the people as to intellect, morals, and religion, is not inferior to that of the people of many parishes in like circumstances. There is not in their number one professed infidel; and there exists among them a general external reverence for the Sabbath and its public ordinances; not a few of them being of exemplary Christian character, and of eminent Christian qualifications. Affability, hospitality, and a readiness to serve and oblige to the utmost of their power,—nay, sometimes beyond what a regard to their own private and family interests would dictate,—are peculiarities in the habits of many of this place and vicinity, which, to strangers who have come to fix their residence here, have been the subject of pleasing observation and of grateful experience.

*Poaching*, it must be confessed, is still too much practised both in the fields and in the tributary streams of Loch Leven. In



the first case, it receives no check from any public association, and next to none from any individual whatsoever. In the last case, it is not unfrequent, at certain seasons, even on Sabbath, nay, particularly on that day, especially among the young. It is gratifying to think that smuggling has almost disappeared.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—In consequence of a very large proportion of the lands of this parish being in the occupation of proprietors, it is not easy to arrive at a correct state of the number and value of its acres. But, from repeated surveys and examinations of the parish minister, followed up by those of five of his parishioners peculiarly well qualified to obtain and to communicate the wished-for information, the following results, although not mathematically exact, may be considered as no distant approximation to the truth:—

The whole of the arable acres may be	-	-	5240
Those still in their natural state, but susceptible of improvement,	-	-	121
Those under planting,	-	-	215
Those under buildings, fences, &c.	-	-	24
			<hr/> 5600

The kinds of trees generally planted are, larch, Scotch fir, and spruce. Those of the oldest standing are round the mansion-house, while those recently planted on the trust-estate of Kinross, and on the lands of Lethangie, Lathro, Easter Balado, &c. are both hard wood and fir. The whole seem well attended to and thriving.

*Rent.*—The old valued rent of the parish is L. 4006, 6s. 8d. Scotch. The real rent is L. 9175 Sterling: the minimum rent per acre is 17s. the maximum L. 5, the average rent L. 1, 12s. 10 $\frac{3}{4}$ d. The average rent of grazing an ox or cow is from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4, and one-third of that for a ewe or full-grown sheep.

The gross rental of land in the parish is,	-	-	L. 9175. 0 0
House property in town of Kinross,	-	-	3478 9 6
Garden ground, do.	-	-	195 8 1 $\frac{1}{2}$
			<hr/> L. 12,848 17 7 $\frac{1}{2}$

#### *Average of Annual Produce.*—

70 $\frac{1}{2}$ acres wheat, average produce	4 quarters per acre,	282 qrs. 0 bush.
483 do. barley,	do. 5 do.	2415 0
1191 do. oats,	do. 5 do. 3 bush. do.	6401 5
200 do. potatoes,	do. 8 $\frac{3}{4}$ tons per acre,	1750 tons.
280 do. turnip,	do. 23 $\frac{1}{2}$ do.	6580 do.
280 do. summer fallow.		
722 do. sown grass hay produce	1 $\frac{1}{2}$ ton per acre,	1083 do.

#### *Average value of Raw Produce.*—

282 quarters wheat, at L. 2, 6s. per quarter,	-	-	L. 648 12 0
2415 do. barley, at L. 1, 8s. do.	-	-	3381 0 0
6401 do. 5 bush. oats, at L. 1 do.	-	-	6401 12 6

1750 tons potatoes, at L. 1, 7s. per ton,	-	-	-	L. 2362	10	0
6580 do. turnip, at 4s. per do.	-	-	-	1316	0	0
1083 do. sown grass hay, at L. 3 do.	-	-	-	3249	0	0
2004 acres pasture, at L. 1, 12s. per acre,	-	-	-	3206	8	0
Loch fishing,	-	-	-	204	0	0
Market customs,	-	-	-	66	0	0

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L. 20,835    2    6

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The whole is calculated by the Scotch acre.

Feu-duty paid to Kinross estate from this parish,	-	-	-	L. 313	17	0
do. to Aldie do.	-	-	-	13	8	6

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L. 327    5    6

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Number of families of proprietors, farmers, &c. in the country,	150
male servants,	94
female servants,	47
cottars,	339
horses in the parish,	274
colts,	52
bulls,	9
cows,	332
calves,	329
other cattle,	646
sheep,	367
swine,	146
carts,	138
ploughs,	76
harrows,	77 pairs.
quarries,	9

There are 22 thrashing-machines in the parish, one of which is impelled by steam, one by water, and the others by horses.

**Soils.**—Extent of surface about 5600 acres :

Whereof 2000 acres are a deep black alluvial soil incumbent on sand or gravel, the substrata of part of which is whin-rock ;

1000 acres light sandy soil (thin) incumbent on sand or dry till ;

1400 acres black thin loam, on a cold retentive clay or till ;

200 acres cold thin clay, subsoil, barren clay mixed with weeping sand ;

100 acres moss, on a cold weeping sand and clay mixed ;

700 acres light black moorish soil, on a moorband sterile subsoil ;

200 acres uncultivated and under wood, the soil and subsoil of such a texture as that of the preceding 700 acres.

The various cattle-shows which are frequently held here and in the adjoining districts, have contributed not a little to the improvement of farm stock. It is humbly suggested, that the greatest advantages would follow if prizes, whether as medals or sums of money, were distributed, not only to such as rear the best horses, bulls, and cows, &c. but to such as, in the judgment of competent arbiters, had most distinguished themselves by draining, irrigating, embanking, destroying weeds and vermin,—by the condition of their enclosures,—by the nature of their management and crops,—by the neatness and cleanliness with which they surrounded their dwellings, and the order as well as comfort which prevailed within them.



The general duration of leases is nineteen years. The state of farm-buildings, enclosures, &c. has of late undergone a very striking change to the better: and the same improvement is observable in the roads, fences, husbandry, &c. throughout the parish. Rents of several properties have, within the last thirty years, been more than doubled. An estate in the parish which was sold forty years ago for L. 10,000, was purchased last year for L. 35,500.

*Fisheries.*—There is but one fishery, that of Loch Leven, which commences, if frost permit, on the first of January, and closes on the first of September. It was lately let at the yearly rent of L. 204. The former rent was L. 230, and this diminution has arisen from the partial drainage of Loch Leven being regarded as unfavourable to the lake, viewed as a fishing-pond.

*Manufactures.*—Kinross was, of old, famous for its cutlery; but now, there is not one individual in the parish employed in that occupation. The manufacture, also, of Silesia linens, of which we read in the last Statistical Account, has ceased. Instead of these, there are gingham, pullicates, checks, &c. the materials of which are sent from Glasgow. But, of late, tartan shawls, plaids, and other articles of dress have begun to be wrought by three companies residing in Kinross, on their own account, with every prospect of a good return, besides a rise of the wages of the operative, and an increase of employment to our female population.

There is, in addition to the two kinds of work mentioned, a manufacture of damasks from Dunfermline.

The number of weavers of the first description,	334
second do.	48
third do.	14

Making the weaving population in all,	-	-	396
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The average wages of an industrious cotton weaver are, per week, 5s. 6d.; of a tartan ditto, 14s. The condition of the former is very fluctuating. Sometimes their wages are very low; nor is it at all an uncommon occurrence for a greater or less number of them, for days and weeks together, to have no webs from Glasgow at all. For the removal, or at least the alleviation, of this distressing situation, heritors and others, whose circumstances permitted, have occasionally come forward to purchase materials of industry, or to provide out-of-door occupation.

It is the practice with our weavers, and others of the labouring classes, to apply to proprietors and farmers for as much land as will be sufficient for planting a certain quantity of potatoes, which

they obtain on condition merely of their giving manure, and hoeing the drills of the young plants, when necessary. This practice deserves to be encouraged, for to those accustomed to sit for hours at the loom, it affords health and relaxation in the open air, besides supplying, at an expense which none of them feels, an article of food most nutritious and valuable.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Town.*—The town of Kinross, though not a Royal burgh, has long enjoyed a species of *municipal* institution, which has been particularly useful for certain public purposes; the principal of which are, lighting of the streets, supporting a bell and clock, a fire engine, steelyard, &c. Having no public funds, the inhabitants have long had recourse to an annual voluntary contribution, which is placed under the management and control of a preses, treasurer, and clerk, who, with eight or sometimes ten members of committee, constitute a sort of town-council, so far as the above matters go: they are annually chosen at a public meeting, having, in the first instance, the trouble of collecting the contributions, of which, for the ensuing year, they have the sole charge; but for the management of which they are at all times subject to be called to account at a public meeting of the inhabitants.

This useful institution, designed “THE STEEPLE COMMITTEE,” commenced in 1742, when at a public meeting of the inhabitants, the Rev. Robert Stark, minister of the parish, chairman, it was agreed, “That, considering it was in contemplation to build a new church, a steeple might with great propriety be added thereto.” This, after much care and assiduity was completed in 1751, when Sir John Bruce presented the town with a clock. At a meeting during the same year, the following appears on the record: “that the bell shall be rung at five in the morning; eight and ten at night; and on Sundays, at eight, nine, and ten in the forenoon, and that the last bell for divine service shall continue ringing a quarter of an hour.”—17th July 1758. “The principal *Lord of the Chapmen*” compeared, and gave half a crown for carrying on the finishing of the steeple,” which seems to have been the addition of a vane or weathercock. In 1793 the streets were first lighted by lamps. At present (1839) the number of lamps is about 42; all lighted with gas.

The annual collections vary from L. 20 to L. 25, which, with an annual donation of L. 5 from the road trustees, constitute the only funds for the purposes above referred to.



In connection with the town, it may be noticed that the Curling Club of Kinross is of very ancient date. In 1818, a committee of this club reported, that they had ascertained beyond a doubt that "curling" had been practised, and the adjuncts, of a "court," regular mysteries and ceremonies, preserved entire, for at least 150 years previous to that period.

Kinross, which is the only town in the parish, had once a weekly market on Tuesday; but now it seems to be transferred to Milnathort, in the parish of Orwell, which is not two miles distant, and holds every Wednesday. It is a post-town, where letters from the south arrive every evening about 9, and every morning at the same hour: and from the north at 2 A. M. and 4 P. M.

For the gratuitous delivery of letters, for a branch of the British Linen Bank, and for other conveniences and advantages, Kinross stands indebted to the active and kind interference of Sir James Montgomery.

*Turnpike Roads.*—These, and particularly the great north road, are in excellent order. They extend to sixteen miles.

Public carriages running in the parish are three in number; one of them is the Royal Mail from Edinburgh to Aberdeen; another is the Defiance stage-coach, which has been employed for some months past as a conveyer of letters from Edinburgh to the north; the third coach is the Saxe Cobourg from Edinburgh for Perth. Ere a second mail or a substitute for one was started, which was only some months ago, the old one passing in the Sabbath morning betwixt two and three, and in the evening betwixt seven and eight, gave little annoyance to the serious part of our community. But the new mail, in its journeyings north and south, is viewed and felt in a very different light. The Presbytery of Dunfermline; to which Kinross parish belongs, has attempted, along with that of Edinburgh and others, but hitherto without success, to remove this Sabbath desecration. The consequence of no stop being put to the running on the Lord's day has been melancholy. At first, the new mail coach was, on Sabbath, generally empty. Now, there is little, if any, difference in the number of its passengers on Sabbath, and the number on any other day.

The bridges which connect Kinross parish with the parishes of Orwell, Cleish, and Fossaway, together with those within itself, of any considerable size, are 13 in number, all of stone, chiefly white freestone, and in good condition. The fences are chiefly of dry stone, something like the old Galloway dikes. There are

also, throughout the parish, quickset thorn hedges, sometimes interspersed with beeches. These, when planted in a good soil, and duly attended to, become a complete protection to the fields they enclose, and an ornament to the country. But, from the poverty and shallowness of the land in which young plants are often set, and still more from leaving them almost entirely to themselves, and driving stakes through the heart of them, and neither preserving them from the inroads of cattle, nor being at any pains to fill up gaps,—they become worse than useless, and an eye-sore.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—Of the parish church,\* as one of the new buildings of Kinross, some mention has already been made. It may be added, that it is not four miles distant from the extremity of the parish. It is in the Gothic style. Its architect, Mr George Angus, built subsequently, and much after the same design, the churches of Tulliallan and Kettle.

Connected with this new church, the only benefaction was from an individual, who mentions it entirely from the wish and hope that it may contribute to a great public good, and lead others, as it has already done in one instance, to follow his example. The example which is now referred to, is a donation of L. 100 to make sure that this new church should be built. There was also subscribed by the same person, as much more for pews to himself, and to others who might require them, and from whom he has never once applied for seat rents or any thing in the shape of such; although, it must be added, that some who are most accustomed to earn their daily bread with the sweat of their brow, are the most unwilling to permit themselves to lie under what they regard a pecuniary obligation.

On the 11th of March 1832, the new church was opened for public worship; and it is worthy of notice, that, within a year thereafter, nearly 200 names were added to the minister's visitation roll; and that since the above day, there has not been a single Sab-

\* The bell was got from London after the building of the new church, and was substituted for the bell which belonged to the old church, and which was permitted to remain in the old steeple once connected with the old church, but now standing by itself in the centre of the town. A still older bell of the same church, and which was rendered useless on some days of public rejoicing had this legend:

"*Voco ad verbum, verbum ad Christum.*"

How much in sense and in sound does the legend of our tower bell suffer in comparison,

"*Invito ad verbum, verbum ad Christum!*"

And to whom, acquainted with the writings of Pope, does it not suggest the well-known lines:

"To ease the cushion and soft Dean invite,  
Who never mentions Hell to ears polite!"



bath without public worship in the new building. It is still in good repair.

The *old* manse, inhabited by the Rev. Robert Stark, who was ordained minister here more than one hundred years ago, still exists near the inlet of the loch, at the south of the town, into which it is said the boat was rowed which carried Mary from the island. The new manse was built in 1784, after the admission to the charge of this parish, of the last incumbent, the Rev. Archibald Smith. In 1812, and subsequently, additions and improvements have been made to it, both by heritors and the present minister. L. 600 have not sufficed for the outlay of the latter on the house, the offices, and the grounds around them.

The glebe, at the admission of the present incumbent, consisted of about six acres, including the stance of manse and garden. After a process at law commenced by him in 1811, and not finally concluded until 1825, he ultimately succeeded in establishing his claim to grass for a horse and two cows. About five acres, in the near vicinity of the manse, have been added to his former glebe, all of good quality, and worth more than L. 40 per annum.

*Stipend.*—The stipend of the parish consists of the following items, viz.: barley, 31 bolls, 6 pecks; oatmeal, 94 bolls,  $\frac{4}{5}$  peck; money, L. 94, 6s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; amounting, *communibus annis*, according to the Third Report of the Commissioners for Religious Instruction, to L. 184, 16s. 4d.

The first and last augmentation obtained during the present incumbency, was on the 8th of December 1806; and the present incumbent has not made another effort to add to the comparatively inferior stipend he possesses, although, according to the above-mentioned *Report of the Commissioners for Religious Instruction*, there are in this parish unappropriated teinds to the amount of L. 116, 16s. 9d.

*Dissenting and Seceding Chapels.*—There are two places of worship in this parish pertaining to the *United Secession Church*, formerly the *Burgher* and *Antiburgher* communions. Their ministers are paid by seat rents. The amount of the stipend of the one minister is L. 120, and of the other L. 80, besides a house and garden.

The number of persons of all ages belonging to the Established Church is 1240. Seceding and Dissenting ministers having no parochial territory, the range of their spiritual labours is uncircumscribed, and accordingly their Sabbath and week day-ministra-

tions extend to individuals within every parish of this county and even beyond it.

The average amount of the ordinary collections in the parish church is about L. 36 a-year.

During 1838, collections were made for the four schemes of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland, in addition to one for the Auchterarder case, when more than L. 18 was collected or subscribed. There are also different other collections for local purposes, on which occasions there is, on the part of the congregation in general, no want of liberality. The amount of the sums thus received, and which are independent of the weekly collections for the poor, was L. 61, 16s. 8d. for 1838.

*Societies for Religious Purposes.*—In 1812, a Religious Society was instituted under the designation of the Fife and Kinross-shire Bible Society. Soon after its institution, the union of counties was found to be attended with inconveniences. Accordingly, a Kinross-shire Bible Society was formed, which had its yearly and penny a-week subscribers, its quarterly committee and its annual general meetings, the last alternately at Kinross and Milnathort. The Apocryphal controversy led to the sending of that part of its funds which remained, after certain distributions agreed upon by its members, to the Edinburgh Bible Society. Peace and charity, and active co-operation were the distinguishing features of this association. But of late, different communions of Christians, with those who take the deepest interest in their public proceedings, have such different, and alas! often such conflicting views and measures which they consider of paramount importance, that it is not to be wondered there should be a striking diminution of the members and funds of the Society.

There are in Kinross parish three *Religious Tract Societies* connected with the three congregations, and in which pious and benevolent ladies take a most efficient part, employing their stated visitings for the distribution of these tracts, as occasions for acquainting themselves with the bodily as well as the spiritual wants and distresses of the individuals whom they call on.

*Ladies' Society.*—There is a Society of considerable standing here, and which is not undeserving of being classed in the number of Religious Societies. This is the Ladies' or Female Society. The members of it meet together monthly, when they distribute a certain quantity of oatmeal to each of those destitute women, whom they shall determine upon as the most suitable objects of re-



lief. Their funds arise from a small subscription from each member of 5s. on her entrance; and of a penny a-week or 4s. 4d. a year; from occasional public collections; from the donations of individuals, &c. No small addition was made, two years ago, by the proceeds of a musical festival in Kinross mansion-house.

The two congregations of the United Secession Church contribute to the sending out a missionary to Jamaica, and maintaining him while there.

There are three prayer-meetings here, one connected with the parish church congregation, and the other two with those of the United Secession.

*Temperance and Abstinence Societies.*—One Society, the laws of which bound its members to refrain from all ardent spirits, excepting when medicinally required, was formed some years ago, and for a little while was highly popular; but dissension springing up, a split took place, and it became extinct. Within the present year, 1839, another Society has been constituted, called a *Tee-total*, the object of which is to put an end to the use as well as abuse, not only of ardent spirits, but of malt liquor, and whatever contains in it any portion of alcohol. It is, at present, in high repute, already numbering among the subscribers to its obligations, of men, women, boys, and girls, more than 430 names.

*Education.*—Of public schools, exclusive of the labours of instructors in one or two families belonging to the country part of the parish, there are, parochial and endowed, 1; not parochial, and unendowed, 7; taught by females, 4. The branches of instruction in these schools are such as we expect and are accustomed to meet with in similar situations. Latin, the first elements of Greek, geography, the use of the terrestrial globe, are confined to the parish school. The salary of the master of this school is L. 34, 4s. 4½d. The amount of his fees annually is about L. 55. The payment of the greater proportion of pupils is weekly.

There are not above 12 from six to fifteen years of age who can neither write nor read. To the benefits of education the people at large are not insensible. If there be any exception, it is with the very ignorant, and still more with the dissipated and depraved. No part of the parish is so distant as to prevent school attendance at Kinross, on the part of such, at least, as are above seven or eight years of age. At the examination of schools this spring, by the presbytery, more than one-seventh of the whole population were found to be in attendance.

The facilities of education are such, that there is not a single individual in the parish whom destitute circumstances prevent from obtaining access to the parish school, and all the common branches of instruction. The late Mr James Beveridge of Middle Balado left a small legacy for this purpose. The kirk-session and heritors are very attentive to the case of poor children who require to be sent to school; and the schoolmaster himself is very liberal of his gratuitous services.

*Libraries.*—There are two public subscription libraries here. The first is more general, and under the management of a committee, of which the three clergymen are members, along with others. The second is the Tradesmen's Library, chiefly for artisans and operatives.

There are, besides, three juvenile libraries, or rather small selections of books, chiefly of such as are suited to the years and capacities of the scholars of the Sabbath classes, and almost all of a strictly religious character. These are purchased by public collections at the church doors, or by individual bounty.

A public reading-room is in contemplation. It is proposed to place it in a vacant space in the centre of the town, and to set about building it immediately.

*Friendly Societies.*—These, four in number, are, according to the dates of their institution, as follows:—1. The Weavers', instituted 25th November 1756; 2. The Hammermen, 15th June 1783; 3. The Friendly, 2d September 1799; 4. The Brotherly, 4th January 1819.

*Savings Bank.*—In May 1815, such a provident institution was established at Kinross, under the designation of *Kinross-shire Bank for Savings*, and although at its commencement it had to encounter suspicion and misapprehension on the part of many, for whose benefit it was intended, all such prejudices were so completely surmounted, that nearly L. 3000 of deposits, not exceeding L. 4 each, were realized. To its extensive and increasing usefulness, the writer of this article can bear his clear and decided testimony, having been actuary from its beginning till its dissolution on the 1st of January 1833, a period of nearly eighteen years. Into the particulars that led to an event equally unfortunate and unexpected, it would be altogether improper to enter. Suffice it to say, that its directors and other office-bearers, who gave their time and trouble gratuitously, and the members who along with them contributed to an auxiliary fund of upwards of L. 100, were the only individuals



connected with it, subjected to any pecuniary loss. The depositors received every farthing they had lodged in the bank, and that, too, with bank interest.

Notwithstanding the fate of the Savings Bank, and the trouble which it occasioned to its managers, a new one has of late been set afoot, and promises to do well. A new provident institution has been in operation since May 1837. It transacts with the branch of the British Linen at Kinross, receiving three instead of two per cent., the common bank interest, and handing over deposits to the British Linen, or to their owners, as soon as they amount to L. 5. There is in this, as in the former savings establishment, an auxiliary fund.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The average number of persons who at present receive parochial aid under the joint management of the heritors and kirk-session is 36; add for occasional paupers 4; total 40. The average sum allotted to each per week is from 1s. to 1s. 6d. The church collections in the support of the poor are from L. 30 to L. 36.

These collections, together with mortcloth dues, (which dues of late have been much diminished,) are not sufficient to prevent an assessment, which it is no wonder that heritors should dislike, seeing it falls entirely on them. But such a mode of provision ought to be an object of aversion to every friend of the best interests of the poor and the parish at large. It is most earnestly to be wished, that what is termed the *Voluntary principle*, and which many, besides Churchmen, think has nothing to recommend it in religion, should have the fullest scope, and be more than ever acted on, in the maintenance and management of the poor.

A very common and commendable mode of occasional relief, in cases of want and distress, unforeseen and urgent, is for two or more respectable individuals to go about with a subscription paper, in which they insert the names of subscribers, and the sums which have been subscribed and paid.

There are here neither alms nor poor-houses, and long may it be so; but there is a sum of L. 100 Scots (L. 8, 6s. 8d. Sterling,) distributed annually by the kirk-session among 17 females selected by them, and whose chief recommendations are age, destitution, and bodily infirmity. Each receives 10s. with the exception of the last chosen, who gets only 6s. 8d. These females are said to be on the *hospital list*, because the distribution made to them is in lieu of an hospital, which Sir William Bruce intended to

build on the side of the road to the old church-yard. Of this intended building, which was never executed, a particular account will be found in the Acts of the Scottish Parliament in the reign of James VII. under the title Sir William Bruce.

It may be noticed farther, that a sum of L. 100 was mortified to the poor of the parish by the deceased George Graham, Esq. of Kinross. This sum has been lent to the heritors of the parish, and the interest of it, L. 5, is distributed by the minister of the parish, at the sight of the proprietor of the estate of Kinross.

*Prison.*—There is one jail in Kinross parish, in which, during the last year, there were 3 civil and 36 criminal prisoners. This jail, although newly built, is not so secure as to prevent, from time to time, the escape of the worst of its inmates. Those confined are allowed two hours of open air abroad every day. No provision is made for ministerial visitation or religious instruction to prisoners; but free access is always to be had for both purposes.

*Police.*—There is also a police at Kinross. The officer, whose salary is 14s. per week, is maintained by a voluntary assessment on the part of the landed proprietors. His duty is to check and prevent all disturbances of the public peace, and all attacks on the persons or properties of the lieges; also to seize upon and to send off from the parish the host of vagrants and sturdy beggars from all quarters, who were once a far greater nuisance than now.

*Fairs.*—There are four yearly fairs or markets; the first on the third Wednesday of March, old style; the second on the first day of June, old style; the third on the third Wednesday of July, old style; and the fourth on St Luke's day, or the 18th of October, old style. These fairs are chiefly for cattle; but they serve likewise for various other purposes of human intercourse and transacting together.

There can be no doubt that these public occasions are, in a pecuniary view, very advantageous to Kinross.

*Inns, Alehouses, &c.*—There are two principal-inns here, which, in respect of the accommodation and comfort afforded by them to the traveller, will yield to none from Edinburgh to Inverness. The inn to the south (Kirkland's) keeps 3 post-chaises, 1 landau, 1 hearse, 34 post-horses, 4 post-boys, 6 strappers, 1 hostler, 1 head waiter, 1 under waiter, 4 female servants, one of whom is a cook. That to the north (Kinross Green Inn, or Macgregor's,) has 3 post chaises, a drosky and gig, 5 horses, and a donkey; 7 stables; 4 post-boys, 7 strappers, 1 hostler, 1 head waiter, 1 under



ditto, 3 female servants. An inferior, but respectable inn, called the Salutation, near the middle of the town, has 3 horses and 2 gigs. There are 12 other public-houses, without any carriage or horse, and of which 2 only have stables. Besides the beer and spirits sold in these places of public entertainment, a great deal is sold and drunk in back rooms of spirit shops and elsewhere.

*Fuel.*—This article, of prime necessity, is here cheap and good. Coal is brought from Kelty, at the distance of five miles from Kinross, and from Lumphinnan, Lochgelly, where it is thought superior, at the distance of eight miles. The coal called great is, at Kelty, at the rate of  $3\frac{1}{2}$ d. the cwt., 1s. 2d. 4 cwt., 4s. 8d. 16 cwt. or 4 loads, which is the usual draught of a single cart, although at some coal hills (Lumphinnan) not less than 18 cwt. are given for 4 loads. The toll exigible for a single cart is 9d.; the carriage from Kelty paid to a carter is 2s. 6d.; ditto from Lochgelly, 3s. Small coal or *chews*, as they are called, are 1s. 2d. per cart-load cheaper than great coal. Peat is got in the parishes of Portmoak and Cleish, but is not used except for some special purposes.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

The division which, at one time, so much prevailed of land into what was termed infield and outfield, the former only being in a state of regular cultivation, and called mucked or dunged land, the latter being in a state of nature or just breaking up, under no rotation, has disappeared; and where there is no insuperable obstacle, every spot is brought under the plough, or will be so immediately.\*

The value of manure is now completely appreciated. With the exception of ashes, it finds a ready market at 5s. a ton.

At the period of the former Statistical Account, there was no banking establishment in Kinross; now, it has all this accommodation from a branch of the British Linen, where business is conducted with an attention, correctness, courtesy, and liberality, worthy of that highly respectable house.

*Gas Establishment.*—On the 23d of March 1835, a company was formed here, called the Gas Light Company of Kinross and Milnathort. The number of its shares is 500, and they are held by 134 individuals. Each share is L. 5, and the capital of the Company amounts to L. 2500. The gas works have been set down

\* "Little or no wheat," says the writer of the former Statistical Account, in its very last sentence, "was raised till of late, but it is now sown in different parts of the parish." It may now (April 1839) be as correctly said, that wheat is not sown here to the same extent as it was twenty years ago. The farmer finds it more advantageous to sow barley; the thinness of the soil in general and our severe springs render wheat both a very precarious, and an exhausting crop.

about a mile to the north of the centre of Kinross, at an equal distance from it and Milnathort, serving as a reservoir to each, both for houses and shops. The streets of Kinross and its immediate vicinity are lighted with gas by public voluntary subscription.

The profits of the Gas Company must very much depend on the price of coals, and still more on the prosperous state of trade at Kinross and Milnathort. The dividend to shareholders has not yet exceeded 2½ per cent., but is expected soon to be much higher. The charge for 1000 cubic feet of gas is about 11s. The coal for the work is got at Capeldrae, about seven miles south-east from Kinross, and is of the kind called parrot or cannel, and is sold at about 14s. per ton at the pit, and costs about L.1 when laid down at the gas-works.

The parish of Kinross, as stated in the title of this Account, is within the bounds of the presbytery of Dunfermline; and from the town of Dunfermline, by the best carriage road, it is nearly fifteen miles distant. Much convenience and many advantages, both of a temporal and spiritual kind, would arise to the minister and parish of Kinross, as well as to several ministers and parishes around, were Kinross made the seat of a new presbytery, comprehending within its jurisdiction the parishes of Arngask, Orwell, Muckhart, Fossaway, and Tullibole, Cleish, Beath, Ballingry, Portmoak, and Strathmiglo. Such a new arrangement has not only been seriously thought of, but has been submitted to the consideration of all the ministers of the parishes above-mentioned, and to two of their respective presbyteries. Objections not anticipated, and some of them of a private and personal, and therefore not of a permanent nature, have hitherto opposed themselves to an object for many reasons most desirable. The presbytery of Dunfermline, in order to lessen the inconveniences and other evils of their Kinross-shire members being so far removed from their presbytery seat, came to a resolution, inserted in their minutes, of having two meetings at Kinross every year. This is so far well, but it is not a sufficient remedy for what the northern brethren complain of. This remedy the present incumbent of the parish of Kinross may never experience, but another will, when the views and feelings of individuals shall no longer be unfriendly, or allowed by the General Assembly to be so, to a new arrangement of public and general advantage.

*April 1839.*



# PARISH OF PORTMOAK.

PRESBYTERY OF KIRKALDY, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. HUGH LAIRD, D.D. MINISTER.

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## I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name.*—THE name of this parish has been usually derived from a St Moak, to whom a priory erected at the side of Lochleven is said to have been dedicated,—the prefix Port referring to the landing-place from the priory on the island of Servanus, part of the ruins of which still remain. This derivation, however, is liable to objection. When the Presbytery met in 1659 to condemn the old church which stood on the site of the priory at the side of the lake, the name of the parish in the record of that court is Servanus. If that was its usual name, then it is not easy to see how recourse would be had for another to the Roman calendar, so long after Popery was abolished. In the oldest manuscripts which the writer has seen, it is called Portmag, Portmog, or Portmoag, and old people and many strangers spell it so to this day.

*Extent, &c.*—From the south-west to the north-east, and from the north-west to the south-east, are about 9 miles, and from south to north and from east to west, about  $5\frac{1}{2}$ . The figure of the parish is very irregular. One corner runs about a mile to the south-east into the parish of Auchterderran, and one farm of about 140 acres is separated from the rest of the parish, and embosomed in that of Kinglassie,—which arose from the annexation of the intermediate lands to the parish of Kinglassie, by presbyterial commissioners in 1650. It runs more than half round the lake, and rises gradually from it on one side to the Bishop's hill, distant rather more than a mile, and on the other to Benartie, at scarcely half the distance. The highest top of the former is about 1030 feet above the level of the sea, and the latter seems nearly as high. Both rise gradually from the east very like a wave in a narrow channel, till they reach almost to the west end of the parish, where they terminate precipitously. About the middle of the parish, both hills begin to flatten to the eastward, and the arable land to extend in width.

The west division is a sharp sandy soil ; the eastern, rather strong clay or heavy loam.

*Hydrography.*—Opposite to where the Bishop's hill winds towards the north, there are several exuberant springs. Within about 400 yards, are three, of excellent water, which by the aid of a moderate fall would drive a mill. The eastmost one surprises strangers. It is said that Oliver Cromwell called them *fontes Scotiæ*, and the adjoining village is called Scotland-well. Lochleven is about thirteen miles in circumference. The part of it which is in this parish is said to cover 1730 acres of land, and contains the island of St Servanus, which extends, since the draining of the lake, to about 70 acres. Till within these twenty-five years, there were no plantations in the vicinity of the loch, except on the south and west. Since that time, above 300 acres have been planted.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—In the low grounds, there is not much rock of any kind. The north side of Benartie is whin-rock ; and as the land rises to the Bishop's hill on the opposite side, freestone is found, very soft, and, in general, unfit for use. But, on the top of the hill there is a great variety of stone, some very hard and some fit for hewing and building. The difficulty of bringing stones down renders them expensive. The fissures in all these rocks are from south to north, and west to east, at a great variety of distances. There is also some workable whin-rock, and an inexhaustible lime rock. The seam at present worked is from eight to twenty feet thick, and backed at the distance of from four to ten feet. Its dip is to the north-east. Above it, is one foot of moss, and in some places fourteen feet of culm and red earth ; and below, a bed of whin so hard that irons have not been found sufficient to bore it. In the fissures, which vary in size, are found a great variety of petrifications, and a substance resembling ice, which the quarriers were accustomed to throw away, but latterly have burnt, finding it to be the purest lime. When wet, it assumes the consistence of butter, and whitens nearly as well as English whitening. About 4000 tons of limestone are annually sold at 1s. 8d. per ton. And were it not for the high price, the demand would be much greater. But the expense of preparing it is so great, that there is little hope of the price being reduced.

A kiln that sells at L. 12 costs at the quarry,	L. 2	10	4
Driving at the top of the hill,	0	10	4
Rolling,	0	5	6
Breaking stones,	0	5	6
Dragging at the bottom of the hill,	0	10	4



Carting at do.	L. 0	10	4
Coals,	5	2	0
Setting kiln,	0	9	0
Attendance,	0	5	0
	<hr/>		
	L. 10	8	4

This is not taking into account either risk of bad payments, or loss of time for men and horses in winter. The only way of being able to sell at a lower rate would be to use machinery for bringing down the stones from the top to the kiln at the foot of the hill ; but this would require both capital and enterprise. The thing is possible, but is a speculation that cannot be expected to be undertaken soon. Every thing is conducted with the greatest economy. The tarring is let by the yard, and the quarrying by the ton. The lime is burnt by persons who live by it, or by small farmers who take a little land to enable them to keep horses more easily than otherwise they could do. There is hardly an instance of a person who lives by farming burning lime for sale ; and yet it seldom happens that in this trade much money is earned. It seems to be only strong working people who gain by it, through an application of more time and strength than can be long continued.

The soils are various in different parts of the parish. To the westward, it is in general sharp sand, and to the east strong clay or heavy loam. About the middle of the parish, and near the north bank of the lake, is a moss of about 80 acres, of great depth, and covered with heath. Besides this, there is about 150 acres, out of which peats have been taken ; but which are not cultivated.\*

*Zoology.*—There are no very rare species of animal at present in this parish. A few years ago, the horns of a stag were found imbedded in water-run sand, of a very extraordinary size. The author saw lately the fragments of them. They had fallen to pieces from exposure to the air, so that the length could not be ascertained ; but at the root, they are thicker than those of the largest Aberdeenshire ox. The cattle reared are chiefly of the Fife breed, or that crossed by the Ayrshire, and short-horned species. The sheep breed are chiefly Leicester ; but some of the farmers purchase black-faced ones or Cheviots from the Highlands or the south to feed on turnips. A great variety of hogs are reared and kept. There are not many families among the labouring population that have not one. Farm horses are generally good at all prices from L. 20 to L. 35. Small feuars and carters have some-

\* A great part of this is now cultivated ; but part of it not worth the expense. —(1839.).

times animals of less value. There are no forests in the parish, and till lately there were very few plantations. Within the last twenty years, about 300 acres have been planted, chiefly Scotch and larch fir. In some cases, there is a mixture of hard-wood. The soil would bear any trees except those which are partial to cold clay.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, the Marquis of Northampton, and Thomas Bruce, Esq. late of the Customs. The rest are chiefly feuars of from a-half acre to land worth L. 400 per annum.

*Parochial Registers.*—The parochial register commences in 1703. The records previous to that time are said to have been accidentally burnt. In so far as the affairs of the poor, and the record of proclamations are concerned, they have been regularly kept; but the register of baptisms is very incorrect, as Dissenters have in general been very remiss in getting the names of their children entered, and till very lately there was no register of funerals.

*Antiquities, &c.*—There are no antiquities in the parish known to the writer, except the ruins of a priory on the island of Servanus, and of a chapel at Scotland-well. A short time ago, the metal heads of some spears and a shield were found in the cut for draining the lake. They were sent as curiosities to London.

## III.—POPULATION.

The number of people in the parish, according to Dr Webster's return, was 996

In 1783, it was	1040
1791, -	1105
At present (1839) it is	1608
Of these are under 15 years of age,	619
betwixt 15 and 30,	354
30 and 50,	347
50 and 70,	211
above 70,	71

During the last three years there were 6 illegitimate births in the parish.

No person of independent fortune resides in the parish. There are 29 land-owners whose properties exceed the value of L. 50 per annum. There is nothing remarkable in the strength, size, or complexion of the people; 3 persons are deranged; 2 fatuous; 2 blind; and 2 dumb.

The people have improved greatly in cleanliness within the last thirty years. In some cases, there is still room for improvement; but there is none of that filth so often to be met with in large



towns. When they appear at church or market, they are generally well dressed. Their ordinary food is the produce of the country, with the addition of tea and coffee, which are in general use. There are very few, if any, who have not butcher-meat occasionally, and there are few places where the labouring classes live so comfortably. Any person may have, for a trifle, as much land for potatoes as he can manure, and every thing done to it, except hoeing and digging the crop. In this way, an industrious family may, for 10s. or 12s., have as many potatoes as they can use, and perhaps feed a pig. If their turbulent neighbours would not interfere with them, and lead them to believe that this and the other change will improve their condition, they would give very little trouble. Among them are a considerable number of very intelligent men, to whom it would not be easy to find equals in their station. They are a reading population, and, with a few exceptions, temperate, and, circumspect. There is perhaps no smuggling; but owing to the want of resident gentlemen to protect game, poaching is carried to a shameful and demoralizing height. And if means be not adopted soon to put a stop to it, very injurious effects will follow, both to the rising generation and to property.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—The parish contains about 6566 acres of land that have been cultivated, and 3313 that have never been cultivated, including 1700 covered by that part of the lake which is in this parish. Of this very little could be ploughed with any advantage, except what may be made dry by the partial draining of the lake. There is no general common, and even most of that which belongs exclusively to separate townships is in the progress of being divided. About 350 acres are under wood, all planted.

*Rent.*—The rent of arable land is extremely various, being, according to the quality of the soil, from 15s. to L.3 per acre. The probable average may be about L.1, 10s. The rate of grazing, equally diversified, from L.1 to L.4 for a milk cow. The average may be about L.2, 10s.

The common breed of sheep is Leicester and Cheviot, and much attention is paid to their improvement.

The land, in general, is well cultivated and drained. A great part of the parish is in the possession of the proprietors. That which is let is generally under leases of from seven to nineteen years. The farm-buildings are generally good, and the greater

part of the lands inclosed chiefly with dry stone-dikes, which are preferred to hedges, as the latter are long in coming to maturity, and decay before they are very old.

*Husbandry.*—The principal improvement in farming, of late years, has been in pasturing to a greater extent, and bringing into cultivation above 500 acres of meadow and moss that were formerly of little value. The chief obstacle in the way of farming has been the practice of small proprietors working along with their servants. As they do not feel themselves called upon to work hard, their servants imitate their example. Of course, farming is carried on at much greater expense than is requisite. This, however, is gradually wearing out. There are 89 ploughs in the parish, and all on the model brought from East Lothian. The author never saw the long Scotch plough in this parish nor one drawn by oxen, except in one solitary instance, when it was employed to tear up some very coarse land. There are 189 farm-horses, which, with very few exceptions, will bear comparison with those of the Lothians; 13 riding-horses, 6 ponies, 12 chiefly for carting, 95 young horses, 230 milch cows kept by farmers, 40 by servants and tradespeople, 347 calves reared, 1160 young cattle, and many thousands of sheep.

*Quarries.*—Though there be very good freestone in the parish, there is at present no regular quarry. Lime is the only quarry that is regularly worked, and there is nothing remarkable in the way in which it is conducted.

*Amount of Produce.*—

3283 acres in white crop, at L. 7 per acre,	-	-	-	L. 22,981
396 do. green crop, at L. 6 do.	-	-	-	2376
422 do. hay, at L. 3, 10s. do.	-	-	-	1477
Live-stock, including 1728 cattle, 304 horses, and 250 sheep, pasture may be worth	-	-	-	2749
Flax, chiefly for domestic use,	-	-	-	40
Thinning woods,	-	-	-	50
Lime quarry,	-	-	-	303
Fishery in this parish, perhaps,	-	-	-	150
Total yearly value,	-	-	-	L. 30,126

*Manufactures.*—There are no manufactures in the parish except one of parchment, which has for a very long period maintained its ground. There was a tannery of considerable extent, and also a thread manufactory; but they have been discontinued for some years.

V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Fairs, &c.*—Each of the two largest villages has nominally a fair, but one of them hardly deserves the name, as scarcely any cattle



or purchasers attend it. The nearest post-town is Kinross, which has no regular market. One of the villages contains 501 inhabitants, and the other, now 315. Besides these, there are three smaller villages.

*Means of Communication.*—Turnpike-roads intersect the parish in two different directions, and the public roads are in general good; but no public carriages travel on them. Bridges and fences are, for the most part, in good order. Two excellent bridges have been lately thrown over the Leven.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The parish church is as near the centre of the parish as the locality will permit. It is distant about seven miles from one corner, which is very thinly inhabited, and about half that distance from the other extremities. The old church was built in 1661, and has been rebuilt several years ago. It had become too small for the population, and was supposed dangerous. The heritors, with a liberality that does them credit, have now built a plain substantial church, to accommodate about a third more than the former. It is seated for 730. The only benefaction on record is one of L. 100 to the poor born in the parish. The manse is a handsome and commodious dwelling, and by much the best house in the parish. The glebe contains above 18 imperial acres, but only about three of good land. The rest is either moss or unproductive land. The stipend is 16 chalders, half oatmeal and half barley. Till lately, there were two Dissenting meetings in the parish; the one of Dissenters from the Cameronians, the other of the Secession church; but the Cameronian minister having died, the congregation was too small to call another, and most of the people have come to the Established Church. The stipend of the Seceding minister is L. 100, which is raised from the seat rents and the collections at the door. To this is added a dwelling-house. The number of families in the parish attending the Established Church is 219: of families Dissenting or Seceding, 127. The collections in the parish church amount from L. 10 to L. 15 per annum.

*Education.*—There are four schools in the parish, but none of them endowed except the one established by law. In these are taught, English, writing, arithmetic, and sometimes Latin, not, however, on the most desirable principles. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is the maximum. His fees amounted last year to L. 6. None above six years are known to be unable to read, and, in so far as the branches mentioned above are concerned,

there is an universal desire to have the young educated. The great desideratum is the want of a judicious and active teacher.

There are two libraries in the parish, one of which is connected with the Secession Church.

*Poor.*—No person is enrolled as a regular pensioner, so long as there is any hope of his ever being able to provide for himself. Incidental distress is provided for by small loans with or without interest, on the understanding that they are to be repaid again, if it can be done; and frequently they are paid years after, principal and interest. Nor is there any stated pension. The object in every case is to meet the real exigency, and leave no apology for begging. The kirk-session have given sums from 6d. to 5s. 6d. per week, according to the necessity of the cases. Besides this, they pay house rents, provide coals and articles of clothing, and shoes when required. The number of pensioners varies from about 8 to 20. To meet this expense, there is a fund of L. 540 in the management of the kirk-session, and L. 100 in that of the minister and two principal heritors. There have been no assessments for the poor, but the heritors and wealthier inhabitants have sometimes subscribed to meet extraordinary cases. Nor does there appear any growing indelicacy in the poor. The writer had occasion to examine very narrowly into the state of the poor, on account of the approach of cholera, and did not meet with a single instance of complaint, the justness of which he had reason to suspect. In a population of 1571, the whole claims did not exceed L. 8.

*Fuel.*—The fuel chiefly used is coal, and a colliery has been lately commenced in the parish, but its practical effect is not yet known. There is an inexhaustible peat moss, which in a dry year, and with a cheaper mode of digging, might afford cheap fuel, though greatly remedied by the draining of the lake.

*Revised April 1839.*



## PARISH OF CLEISH.\*

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. W. W. DUNCAN, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Extent, &c.*—THIS parish is about  $6\frac{1}{2}$  miles in length from east to west, and about 1 mile in breadth, except at the east end, where it is  $1\frac{1}{2}$  mile from north to south; it contains about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  square miles. It is bounded by Dunfermline parish on the south; Beath on the south-east; Saline on the south-west; Portmoak and Ballingry on the east; on the north by Kinross and Fossaway. The north-east end of the parish is about half a mile from the south side of Loch-Leven.

*Topographical Appearances.*—The Cleish hills form the highest part of that elevated tract of ground which lies between Kinross-shire and Dunfermline. Dumglow, the highest of them, is 1215 feet above the level of the sea; it is flat on the top, and conspicuous from all the country round. The next highest are three hills called Ingans, 1030, 1060, and 1048 feet in height. The arable land is from 380 to 500 feet above the level of the sea. No account has been kept of the temperature or pressure of the atmosphere. In general, it is considered a good summer day when the thermometer is from  $55^{\circ}$  to  $58^{\circ}$ , between eight and nine in the morning; from  $65^{\circ}$  to  $68^{\circ}$  between one and two, and about  $60^{\circ}$  between nine and ten at night. It is not often above  $70^{\circ}$ . The reporter only saw it twice as high as  $80^{\circ}$ , except in the year 1826. That year it was often higher; once at  $88^{\circ}$ . A moderate frost is from  $2^{\circ}$  to  $8^{\circ}$  (of Fahrenheit) below freezing; it is seldom below  $20^{\circ}$ , very seldom below  $10^{\circ}$ . The prevailing winds are between south and west; after these, the most frequent are from north-east; these last feel colder than the others, even where the thermometer continues at the same height. The west winds are strongest, often consisting of violent blasts, with intermissions; the east winds are more uniform and

\* Drawn up partly by the late Mr Daling, minister of the parish, and partly by the present incumbent, Mr Duncan.

steady. Rheumatisms and coughs are common here, as in other parts of Scotland, owing probably more to the dampness than the cold. A good deal more rain falls here than on the shores of the Forth, which are about twelve miles distant.

*Hydrography.*—This parish is well supplied with excellent springs, almost every house having a rivulet running near it. The water is of good quality. The heat of most of the springs is 45°, of some 42°; they proceed from the whinstone and freestone rocks. There are four lochs in this parish; they are situated on the highest parts of the parish; the largest, Loch Glow, is about a mile and a half in circumference, the others much smaller. The fish in them are perches, pikes, and eels, with a few trouts. The river Gairney divides Cleish from Kinross for about two miles and a quarter; the water from the lochs falls into it. The fish in Gairney are produced by the Loch-Leven trouts, which come up the river during the floods in harvest, and return in the beginning of winter. About this time, some eels are caught going down from the lochs.

*Mineralogy.*—The hills are principally composed of sandstone, greywacke, and whinstone. The highest hills consist of the latter; lower down on the north, there is excellent freestone, extending from east to west about four miles. There is also some of the same kind on the south side of the hills, and in that part of Benarty hill which is in Cleish parish. The best houses and bridges in the county and neighbourhood are built of it. It is porous, bears a fine polish, and does not yield to the weather. The whinstones in the hills are in columns. On the side of the high road from Kinross to Dunfermline, at Craigenat, (in Dunfermline parish, but annexed, *quoad sacra*, to Cleish,) there are very regular basalts in perpendicular pillars, with many horizontal divisions. They are easily quarried, and make excellent dikes and road metal. Of two stones of this kind fallen from the hill called the South Ingan, a pair of mill-stones has been made for Cleish mill. They have a great resemblance, internally, to the rocks of the Abbey Craig of Stirling, from which many flour-mill-stones have been made. There is coal on the estate of Blair-Adam, which was formerly wrought to a considerable extent; it is a branch of the Kelty coal. As it is near the proprietor's house, it has not been wrought for many years. There is also coal in the hill, but the seams are thin, and nearly perpendicular, so as not to be worth working. There is very good lime at Scarhill, on the estate of Cleish.



The animals and vegetables here are the same with those in other parts of the low country of Scotland. A few roes and foxes are now found in the young plantations.

*Botany.*—Through the kindness of the Rev. Mr Robertson junior, of Inverkeithing, the reporter has been furnished with the following list of some of the rarer plants found in this parish :

<i>Veronica montana</i>	<i>Scrophularia vernalis</i>
<i>Valeriana pyrenaica</i>	<i>Cardamine amara</i>
<i>Melica cærulea</i>	<i>Arabis turrita</i>
<i>Lobelia Dortmanna</i>	<i>Geranium sylvaticum</i>
<i>Lysimachia nemorum</i>	———— <i>lucidum</i>
<i>Campanula latifolia</i>	<i>Genista Anglica</i>
<i>Viola palustris</i>	<i>Hypericum humifusum</i>
<i>Parnassia palustris</i>	<i>Leontodon palustre</i>
<i>Meum athamanticum</i>	<i>Hieracium amplexicaule</i>
<i>Peucedanum ostruthium</i>	<i>Doronicum plantagineum</i>
<i>Sambucus Ebulus</i>	<i>Gymnadenia conopsea</i>
<i>Trientalis Europea</i>	<i>Habenaria albida</i>
<i>Juncus squarrosus</i>	<i>Listera nidus-avis</i>
<i>Vaccinium oxycoccos</i>	<i>Epipactis latifolia</i>
<i>Paris quadrifolia</i>	<i>Malaxis paludosa</i>
<i>Chrysosplenium alternifolium</i>	<i>Littorella lacustris</i>
<i>Saponaria officinalis</i>	<i>Empetrum nigrum</i>
<i>Stellaria nemorum</i>	<i>Arum maculatum</i>
<i>Arenaria trinervis</i>	<i>Polypodium phegopteris</i>
<i>Sedum villosum</i>	———— <i>dryopteris</i>
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	<i>Aspidium lobatum</i>
<i>Prunus padus</i>	———— <i>Oreopteris</i>
<i>Nuphar lutea</i>	<i>Blechnum boreale</i>
<i>Meconopsis Cambrica</i>	<i>Botrychium lunaria</i>
<i>Helleborus hyemalis</i>	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
<i>Actea spicata</i>	<i>Lycopodium clavatum</i>
<i>Ranunculus auricomus</i>	———— <i>alpinum</i>
<i>Trollius Europæus</i>	———— <i>selago</i>
<i>Scutellaria galericulata</i>	<i>Equisetum hyemale</i>
<i>Linaria cymbalaria</i>	

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

*Land-owners.*—The chief land-owners are, Rear Admiral Sir Charles Adam of Blair-Adam and Barns;\* and John Young, Esq. of Cleish. There are at present 11 heritors in Cleish, all of whom except one have land above the yearly value of L. 50. The number in 1744 was 24; many of their properties were small, and were bought up from time to time by the contiguous heritors. One of the principal heritors resides always in the parish, the other occasionally.

\* Mr Henry Burt bequeathed the estate of Barns to Admiral Adam, who has continued enclosing, cultivating, and planting, has rendered the mansion-house a most convenient dwelling, and has executed the large and important drainage by the straightening and lowering the Gairney in the manner mentioned:—and to which may be added, that, besides making some private roads for the benefit of the estate, he has contributed most liberally and usefully to an important public road which goes through his property from a place called Red-Moss, upon the great north road, to Cleish, to Tullybole, and the Crook of Devon.

*Antiquities.*—Traces of an ancient fort or camp are to be found on the top of Dumglow, the highest hill in the parish. Some urns have been found under large stones and cairns, containing bones, ashes, and bits of charcoal.

The oldest buildings in the parish are those of Cleish and Dowhill. The house, usually called the Place of Cleish, is about 85 feet high, the walls still almost entire. There are several old trees round it. The finest of these are two silver firs in the middle of a walk of yews, one of them being scarcely equalled in Scotland by any tree of that kind. It is 15 feet in circumference at one yard from the ground, which girth it maintains in a perfectly upright trunk of 22 feet in height, when it shoots out several enormous boughs, each of which might form a large tree. One of these is about 10 feet in circumference; it continues in a horizontal position for 12 feet, when it changes its direction, and runs directly parallel with the main trunk to nearly the same height, that being about 120 feet. Exactly opposite to this branch three others strike off, one above another, in the same manner, and on one of the other sides, a single bough, of gigantic dimensions, throws itself in a downward direction for 18 feet, when it, like the others, assumes the upright position. The effect of the whole is most imposing. The House of Dowhill has been used as a quarry, and a good part of it carried away. These buildings had very thick walls; the lower stories were vaulted, and each of them had a small apartment within the wall, called by the people *the pit*, and used, according to tradition, not as a prison but as a place of concealment.

It was in this parish that Michael Bruce, the poet, taught a school. The school-house stood in the centre of what is now the farm-steading of Gairney Bridge, and it was in a public-house which occupied the site of the stables, that the fathers of the Secession held their first meeting. About a quarter of a mile east from the church, in a stone dike opposite Nivingstone House, stands a large rock, which deserves notice. It is called *The Lecture Stane*, and was used, it seems, before the Reformation at funerals, as a support for the coffin at the time that the burial service was read. There is a large hole in it, which was made many years ago with the view of bursting it with powder. Thrice this was tried, and as many times it failed,—which led to the belief that it was charmed, and no similar attempt has since been made. At the east end of the parish, the late Lord Chief-Commissioner has inserted in a bridge a stone, with an inscription, to mark the



road by which Queen Mary fled from Lochleven Castle. In the grounds of Blair-Adam are to be seen "the Keiry Crag," (a most romantic spot,) mentioned in "THE ABBOT" as *the houff* of John Auchtermuchty, the carrier.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1831 the number of inhabitants was 681, of whom 221 resided in villages, and 460 in the country. In agricultural parishes the numbers do not vary much. An act of Parliament is necessary to regulate the parish registers, particularly with regard to the births. Since the ground was enclosed there are fewer cottars, and their houses, instead of being placed irregularly in the fields, are built by the sides of the principal roads. There are five persons in the parish who have been insane; one of them, a farm-servant, was eleven years in that situation, and was supported by the parish funds; he recovered without the use of any remedies, and for more than thirteen years has maintained himself.

*Character of the People.*—In general the people are of good morals, quiet, decent, intelligent, and seem contented with their situation. Illegal distillation was attempted some years ago, but was soon put down.

Within the last two years, only 3 illegitimate children have been born in the parish,—the parents of one of which married before its birth.

### IV.—INDUSTRY.

*Agriculture.*—In the west end of the parish, the arable land consists of clay; farther east, very good soil upon which rock not basaltic; then a considerable tract of gravel and sand, and some ground full of large whinstones, very productive when improved. The south-east quarter of the parish consists mostly of stiff ground, which requires draining. Going south toward the hill, the soil is inferior, mixed with clay; above that, lies the freestone, generally covered with poor soil, damp, and producing heather; on the highest hills, the grass is of fine quality, and forms excellent sheep pasture. There is some moss in the north and east part of the parish; it is of good quality, and forms excellent soil when cultivated.

The system of farming appears to be as good as the soil and climate admit of. The common rotation of crops in the arable land is that of four: 1. oats; 2. drilled crops, potatoes, and turnips; 3. barley, or sometimes oats, or wheat after potatoes; 4. rye-grass, with the different kinds of clover. The first year's crop is

generally cut for hay, and the land kept in pasture for a few years. Summer fallow is little practised except in clay, or when land is first cultivated; when turnips and potatoes form part of the rotation, it is unnecessary. A considerable quantity of lime is used. Draining, which is the greatest improvement that this country admits of, was never carried on with so much spirit as at present. The drains are now much better planned and executed than formerly, and, in most places, plenty of stones can be got to fill them. A great number of acres has been added to the arable land by the main drain, which of late years has been carried along the north side of the parish. This will be afterwards more particularly described. There were originally three commons in the parish; the greatest part of them has been improved long ago, and the cultivation of the remaining part is still going on. The thirlage of the two mills has been settled by arbitration. Some land has been trenched, or, in place of the ordinary trenching, the surface only has been turned over with the spade or plough, nine or ten inches deep, and the under soil opened with the pick to the depth of nine or ten inches more, and the stones taken out. The produce of some fields that have been drained and treated in this way, is now double of what it formerly was. Some gentlemen have used ploughs of a particular construction for opening the under soil. As these ploughs are made to follow the common ploughs in the same furrow, no fewer than six horses are requisite; therefore, in many cases, it would be more convenient to lay the drills and either pick the furrows or open them with the under soil plough; thus one-half of the ground would be improved, and the other half when the drills were reversed. Wedge draining has been tried here, and has succeeded completely in clay and moss, when properly performed. Iron ploughs are generally used, and the carts and other implements of husbandry are much improved. There are five or six thrashing-mills in the parish. Two saw-mills were erected a few years ago, and are found to be of great advantage. The saws are circular; one in each of the mills being two feet and a half in diameter; they are calculated for sawing wood for roofing and flooring, as well as for lath, rails, and stakes. Scotch fir, which, when young, was considered of little value, answers well for lath. The two meal-mills in the parish have been rebuilt, and the machinery much improved. The kilns also have been rebuilt, and fitted up so as to dry the corn sooner and better, as well as with less fuel.



The price of oatmeal from 1782 to 1791 was at an average, 14s. 7½d.; from 1823 to 1832, 18s. 4d. per boll (140 pounds.)

*Wages.*—The wages of labourers are about 1s. 10d. in summer, and 1s. 8d. in winter; of wrights, 2s.; masons, 2s. 6d. to 3s.; slaters, 3s. 6d.; women working in the fields from the planting to the taking up of the potatoes, 8d. and 9d.; in harvest, from 1s. 3d. to 1s. 6d., except when they work by the thrieve, which they find most profitable.

The labour of the women is employed to greatest advantage in the management of cows. There are about 150 cows kept in the parish, inclusive of those belonging to the heritors and farmers. A cow's grass in summer costs L. 4 or L. 4, 4s. This is generally paid by the sale of the butter and the calf. At night the cow gets what can be spared from the garden, with grass from the sides of fences and plantations. For winter, they generally provide some hay, and buy before harvest oats or barley, the meal of which goes to the support of the family, and the cow gets the straw, together with potatoes and turnips, which the farmers give them ground to plant in proportion to their dung. Where a cow is kept, there is also a pig, and some keep a pig who have not a cow. Every householder has a garden, a part of which is planted with potatoes.

*Live-Stock.*—The cattle are generally of the Fife breed. A great deal of pains has been taken to improve them, especially since the establishment of the Kinross Farming Society. The sheep kept on the hill are black-faced, those on the low grounds of some of the English breeds. A considerable part of the arable ground of the parish is in pasture, and let for one year: it is partly stocked with young beasts, but principally with full-grown cattle, which are collected in the country by the graziers, and sold at the Falkirk September and October markets, or the Edinburgh Hallow fair.

The leases are for fifteen or nineteen years. The farm buildings and enclosures are good, and much improved of late years. The principal improvement which the agriculture of this parish admits of, is to complete the system of draining, which is already far advanced, and to cultivate those parts of the waste land which still admit of it.

The freestone has been quarried occasionally in many places; at present, only two quarries are regularly wrought, one at Nivingstone, the other at Bin or Benarty hill. In the year 1834, there were taken from the Nivingstone quarry 14000 feet of stone for hewing, the price of which at 3d. per foot is L. 175: and 3300 cart loads

of rubble or ordinary building stone, costing at 4d. per cart L. 55. and weighing about 18 cwt. per cart.

*Improvements.*—The greatest improvement that has been made in the agriculture of this parish is the main drain that has been carried along the north side of the parish, dividing it from Kinross and Fossaway. The channel of the water of Gairney forms the east part of it, that of the Pow of Aldie the west part. The valley, along the south side of which the parish of Cleish lies, extends from Loch-Leven on the east, to the Pow mill bridge on the west. Here two roads unite; one from Kinross to Alloa by Blairngone; the other from Dunfermline to Crieff by the Rumbling Bridge. The Pow here takes the name of Gairney, runs in a deep ravine, and falls into Devon below the Caldron Linn. The ground on the sides of the valley is good; on the banks of the rivers it is also good, but was often injured by the floods. The channels of the two streams had been formerly straightened and deepened to about three feet, but this was found insufficient to prevent the low ground from being overflowed, or to render it capable of being drained. It was evident that a much deeper cut was necessary, and this has at length been accomplished. John Young, Esq. of Cleish has the merit of beginning this work, and of carrying it through, as far as his estate extends. In the year 1811, he with other two smaller heritors on the Cleish side, and Lord Keith, acting for his daughter Miss Mercer of Aldie, on the Fossaway side, agreed to widen and deepen the Pow of Aldie. This part of the cut is 2875 yards in length, it was made 22 feet wide at top, 6 feet at bottom, and 6 feet deep, and cost 14s. per 6 yards. It has since been frequently cleared and considerably deepened, and now forms a complete main drain for the ground on both sides. The soil here consists partly of clay: a great part of it is moss, but of good quality, and has yielded well when cultivated.

In 1820, Mr Young and Mr Colville of Maw deepened the water of Gairney which divides their estates. The soil here is very good, lying upon gravel, the upper part of which is brown and contains iron. At the depth of five feet, it is very clean and open; when this was cut into, a great quantity of water came from it, the pools in the old links of the river, and the springs in the low ground dried up. Several of the wells in the neighbourhood also dried; on digging deeper, plenty of water was got, but without the iron flavour. At one part of this cut, a vein of black gravel was found, the water from which produced inflammation, and swelling in the



hands and feet of the labourers, so that some of them were obliged to give up work for two or three days. The gravel was afterwards examined, and was found to contain iron, but nothing that could explain the effect which it produced upon the workmen. This part of the cut is 1841 yards in length, 18 feet broad at the top, 6 feet at the bottom, and 6 feet deep; it cost 12s. per 6 yards.

The ground between Gairney and the Pow of Aldie still remained to be drained. This tract is the highest part of the valley. The water here runs partly to the east and partly to the west. The ground was very wet, a ditch that was formerly the march between the estates of Cleish and Aldie having been allowed to grow up, though some parts of it still remained deep enough to drown several cattle. When the ground was enclosed, a new march was made, consisting of a stone dike, carried in a straight line without regard to the bend of the valley, so that the land upon the one side of the march could not be drained except through the land on the other side. Mr Young and Mr James Loch, who acted for Miss Mercer, (now Lady Keith,) agreed to make the drain in the old line of march, which was in the lowest part of the ground: and also to make a belt of planting, 24 yards in breadth, on each side of the cut. This, when the trees grow up, will make a great addition to the shelter and beauty of this part of the valley. The length of this part of the main drain is 1387 yards; the breadth at top, 18 feet; at bottom, 3 feet; the depth, 6 feet; the expense, 10s. per 6 yards. It was executed in 1821. The effect produced here was fully equal to what was expected; the ground, which was before very soft, being soon able to bear loaded carts. This completed the drain from the west end of Cleish parish as far east as the church.

Soon after, the proprietors of the ground on the sides of the water of Gairney to the east agreed to deepen that part of the river which had formerly been straightened and frequently cleaned; but was not deep enough to lay the whole of the contiguous ground dry, although some of it had been cultivated. The length of this part of the drain is 4022 yards; the breadth, 24 feet to the west of the Barns estate, 26 feet to the east; and 6 feet deep. The east part is rather too narrow, as a good deal of water from the hills falls into Gairney here.

That part of the Pow of Aldie which extends from the west end of the parish of Cleish to near the Powmill Bridge, about 3157 yards in length, was straightened and deepened in 1829 and

1830, which completes this important drain. It is in length 7 miles, 4 furlongs, 153 yards, and has drained or rendered capable of being drained, in Cleish, 453 acres; in Fossaway, 484; in Kinross, 122; in Dunfermline, 48; in Saline, 13; in all, 1120 statute acres of excellent land, almost all of which has been already cultivated. Mr Robert Drysdale, land-surveyor in Dunfermline, who is well acquainted with the ground, considers the value of each acre drained to be L. 1, 10s. yearly more than before, which would add to the annual value of that part of Cleish L. 679. Some oats raised upon this ground have been sold before harvest at L. 14, 8s. and L. 15, 1s. 9d. per statute acre, the buyers being at the expense of cutting down and carrying off the crop.

The evaporation along this valley must have been formerly very great, and as evaporation produces cold, the air and soil in the low ground must now be warmer, as well as drier than before. It is probably owing to the diminution of the evaporation that we have not for some time seen those frost mists, which during the night in harvest frequently covered the low grounds and injured the crops. Though all the land on the sides of this drain is good, some of it had rather an unpromising appearance; in particular, the peat-bog on the south side of Aldie. The improvement of this bog, which was begun by Count Flahault, has now been completed, and the moss has yielded excellent crops of oats, potatoes, turnips, and grass. The valley of Gairney and the Pow is now completely changed, and, when viewed from the higher grounds, forms a beautiful prospect, especially to those who were acquainted with it in its former state. The east part of the water of Gairney, from the parish of Cleish to Lochleven, in length 1 mile 310 yards, has not yet been straightened; but this will probably be done soon. There is now plenty of level, the surface of the loch having been lowered from four to five feet. The improvement of this valley has been carried through by the proprietors themselves, without any dispute, and with little difference of opinion. When any one of them obtained more advantage than his neighbour on the opposite side of the river, he paid a greater proportion of the expense of the cost. This was settled privately by the parties themselves.

The estate of Blair-Adam presents a most instructive example of what may be effected by skilful and judicious management, in at once improving the appearance of the country, and increasing the productiveness of the soil in high and exposed situations. It originally consisted of no more than 640 Scotch acres; but, in con-



sequence of successive purchases, it now extends from east to west upwards of three miles, from north to south upwards of two miles and six furlongs, and contains 3110 Scotch, or 3922 statute acres. The improvements were commenced in the year 1733, by the great-grandfather of the present proprietor. At that time the estate was little better than a wild unsheltered moor, the bleakness of which was increased rather than relieved by one solitary tree, which, to use the language of the celebrated Robert Hall, looked "like nature hanging out a signal of distress." This fact the spectator at the present day finds it almost impossible to realize. A greater change than that which has taken place can hardly be conceived. The whole property is now adorned with noble woods, which are tastefully disposed so as to crown the hills, shade the slopes, and hang over the natural ravines which vary the landscape, producing altogether a striking and beautiful effect.

But appearances have not been the only object of the proprietors. Great pains have been taken to drain the soil, which, when relieved from water, is in its nature rather fertile. Hedge-rows have been planted, sunk fences constructed, and every means resorted to for bringing the improvements to the greatest possible perfection.

"The small property of East Mill, of which Mr Hutcheson is the tenant, is in the eastern district of the parish of Cleish, adjoining the west march of Barns. By the judicious management of Mr Hutcheson, this property has been greatly improved within the last five or six years; and he now raises good wheat, where no corn formerly grew. The estate of Fruix, bounded by Barns on the west, and the lands of Gairney on the east, is proceeding in improvement under the management of the proprietor, and is greatly benefited by the lowering of the Gairney. The lands of Gairney, bounded by Brackly (in the parish of Portmoak) on the east, by the water of Gairney on the north; and by the lands of Blair-Adam on the south, has been possessed for several years by Mr W. Stedman under a lease from Mr Bogie, the proprietor, who has built for his tenant most excellent and extensive offices. Mr Stedman, the tenant, has cultivated the land in a most judicious manner, and has converted what was unproductive and sterile dry land, into productiveness. He has likewise taken in a great part of the red moss, and by his judicious management in draining and liming, has converted what was a peat-bog, where peats had been dug for ages, into a state of fertility, and this being the work of a tenant proves that the culture must have been beneficial. This

peat-moss, which had been for ages used for fuel, was a few years ago, brought into culture by the servitude of digging peats having been given up. The three proprietors, the Lord Chief Commissioner, Mr Bogie, and Mr Stedman of Fruix, all encouraged the culture of this moss, through which the great north road passes. It was in extent between forty and fifty acres, of which there is now hardly any thing to be seen, being all either converted into corn land, or covered with trees, which are in a very promising state with respect to growth.

“ The last-mentioned properties, viz. East Mill, Fruix, and Gairney, may extend to between three and four hundred acres, and with the estates of Blair Adam and Barns, constitute what is considered as the eastern district of the parish of Cleish.

“ The estate of Barns, which adjoins that of Blair Adam on the north, was the property of a respectable family of Kinross-shire. Mr Robert Burt, who succeeded to it in 1750, upon the death of his father, became factor on the estate of Blair Adam at that period, and continued to discharge that duty until 1768, when Mr Henry Burt, his eldest son, was appointed to the situation.

“ Mr John Adam, the father of the late Lord Chief Commissioner, carried on his improvements on a very extensive scale, while he and Mr Burt were factors on his estate,—and they had his leave and indeed his injunctions to take from his large nurseries whatever trees they wished to plant on the estate of Barns; so that the last mentioned property was cultivated and planted with trees in a manner similar to that of Blair Adam, so much so, that they almost appear to be the work of the same persons.”\*

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-Town, &c.*—The nearest market-town is Kinross, about three miles north from the centre of the parish. A great part of the grain, butter, and cheese produced is sold at Dunfermline, which is eight or nine miles distant. The turnpike roads from Queensferry and from Dunfermline to Kinross cross the parish from south to north. The roads here are good and still improving: the bridges were built not many years ago, and are in good order. There is a post-office at Blair-Adam, in the east end of the parish: the principal office for the district is that of Kinross.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church is situated about four miles

\* The above remarks are from the pen of the late Lord Chief Commissioner of the Jury Court, whose warm interest alike in the comfort of his people and the improvement of his property, has caused his death to be felt in this parish as an irreparable loss.



from the west end of the parish, and three miles from the east end. Formerly the greatest part of the people lived in the west part of the parish: but as the most of the land there is in pasture, and many houses have been built on the great north road, the east quarter is now the most populous. The former church, which was built in 1775, was unfortunately burnt on 11th of March 1832, owing to the pipe of the stove being too near the top of the wall, and setting fire to the wall-plates. It was rebuilt immediately, and is now one of the handsomest, though unfortunately not one of the most substantial, churches in the country. The expense was about L. 850. It can accommodate upwards of 400 persons. All of the seats are free.

The manse was built in 1744, and thoroughly repaired, and the offices rebuilt in 1793.\* The glebe consists of 5 acres of arable, and nearly 2 of foggage or pasture-ground. The latter was formed into a watered meadow, and yields 5 tons of hay annually. The foggage being under the legal quantity, 16s. 8d. was added to the stipend to make up the deficiency. The value of the glebe is about L. 14 per annum. The stipend, including L. 4, 3s. 4d. for element-money, and 16s. 8d. for the above-mentioned deficiency of foggage, consists of L. 49, 8s. 10 $\frac{8}{12}$ d. in money; 24 bolls of oatmeal, and 8 bolls of bear, amounting, at an average of seven years, to L. 32, 3s. 11d.: the Government allowance being L. 82, 6s. 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.; the glebe being valued at L. 14; and the manse (before the additions mentioned in the foot-note were made) at L. 8: altogether L. 185, 18s. 11 $\frac{6}{12}$ d.

The number of persons, with their families, who belong to the Established Church is about 620; of Seceders, 60. Divine service is generally well attended at the Established Church. The number of communicants is about 200. The patron of the parish is John Young, Esq. of Cleish.

*Education.*—There are three schools in the parish: the parochial school, situated near the church; a private school at Maryburgh, in the most populous part of the parish; and occasionally another private school at Gairney Bridge, which is convenient for the children in the neighbourhood, and also for some in the adjacent parishes. The parochial schoolmaster has the legal accommodation; his salary is the maximum. The school fees, in 1834,

\* Since this was written, a large and handsome addition has been made to the manse, and an entirely new set of offices, besides a garden wall, have been built. The whole cost nearly L. 1000.

amounted to L. 30. English reading and grammar, writing, arithmetic, Latin, Greek, French, mathematics, algebra, navigation, and geography are taught here. The school at Maryburgh is supported by Sir Charles Adam, who gives the teacher a house, school, and garden, and L. 15 a-year. Reading, writing, arithmetic, and book-keeping are taught here: the fees are the same as in the other school, and amounted in 1834 to L. 26. The schoolmaster's wife has hitherto received L. 5 from Miss Adam for teaching sewing. She has at an average eight scholars, at 3s. per quarter. The school at Gairney Bridge depends entirely on the school fees.

At the examination of these schools in April 1839, the number of scholars in the parish school was 65; in Maryburgh, 81; and in 1838, in Gairney Bridge, about 30. The people are very sensible of the advantage of education; and no part of the parish is so distant from the schools as to prevent children from attending.\*

There are no friendly societies here; but some of the people join with those in the neighbouring parishes. Several of them also take advantage of the Savings Bank which has been recently established at Kinross.

*Poor and Parochial Funds.*—The number of persons at present receiving parochial aid is 6, at 1s. per week, one at 2s., and two orphan children at 1s. each per week. There is also a woman receiving 2s. 6d. as a temporary assistance, in consequence of her not being able to prove the father of her illegitimate child. The funds for their support are, the church collections, L. 21, 6s. 10d.; interest of L. 265, L. 10, 12s.; and mortcloth dues, which, since the parish procured a hearse by subscription, are merely nominal: these, at an average of seven years, amount to L. 31, 18s. 10d. Out of the fund are paid L. 2 to the session-clerk, L. 3 to the precentor, L. 1 to the church-officer, 10s. to the presbytery clerk, 5s. to the synod clerk, and 2s. to the presbytery officer, in all, L. 6, 17s., reducing the above L. 31, 18s. 10d. to L. 25, 1s. 10d. The average of disbursements for seven years is L. 43, 1s. 5d. Till the year 1812, our funds were sufficient for the support of the poor, and there was even a small surplus. Since that time the heritors of the parish have, in addition to the ordinary income, subscribed what was necessary, in proportion to their valued rents,

\* There are three Sabbath schools, (besides a class of young men and another of young women,) one at Cleish, another at Maryburgh, and the third at Gairney Bridge, consisting in all of about 130 children. There is also a parish library.



thinking that method preferable to an assessment. There was one subscription of L. 10 in 1814, and seven since that time of L. 20 each, amounting to L. 150. The sum received was L. 153, 15s. 8d. Another subscription of L. 20 was agreed to in January 1834, but has not yet been required. In 1799 and 1800, when provisions were scarce and dear, the heritors subscribed for the relief of the poorest people : the sum collected was L. 31, 13s. 6d.

*April 1839.*

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## PARISH OF ORWELL.

PRESBYTERY OF DUNFERMLINE, SYNOD OF FIFE.

THE REV. JAMES WEMYSS, MINISTER.

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### I.—TOPOGRAPHY AND NATURAL HISTORY.

*Name, Boundaries, &c.*—THIS parish was originally called Urwell, and takes its appellation from a property of the same name on the banks of Loch Leven, and at the south-east extremity of the parish. Whence the word itself is derived is not very apparent; as, however, almost all the names of the farms in the parish are obviously Gaelic, so it may not be too much to suppose that this also may be of similar origin. In this point of view we must have recourse to the Gaelic word *ur*, meaning new or green, and *baile*, a residence or retreat; the whole probably designates a green or fertile retired situation,—an interpretation peculiarly applicable to the property of Orwell, and the old situation of the church, especially previous to the introduction of drainage, and a superior mode of farming, which of late years has converted many wild into fertile districts.

The parish is of a narrow oblong figure, the greatest length being from east to west. From the mouth of the Pow-burn to the summit of Coal-craigie, or from Burnside to Warroch, is about  $7\frac{1}{2}$  miles, while its greatest breadth, from north to south, does not exceed  $3\frac{1}{2}$ ; and its surface may be stated in round numbers at 21 square miles. It is bounded on the north by the parishes of Arngask, Forteviot, Forgandenny, and Dunning; by Fossaway on the west; by Kinross parish and Loch Leven on the south; and by

Portmoak and Strathmiglo on the east. A small part of the parish is annexed *quoad sacra* to that of Arngask.

The southern portion of the parish is generally level, diversified with gently swelling heights. North of Milnathort, it rises gradually to the top of the high grounds called the Braes of Orwell, and thence more suddenly to different eminences on the Ochil hills. The highest of these hills, at nearly the north-western extremity of the parish, scarcely exceeds 1000 or 1100 feet above the level of the sea; and the lowest part of the parish on the margin of Lochleven is about 335 feet above the same level. The average height of the cultivated portion may be about 450 feet.

*Climate, &c.*—The climate, on the whole, is healthy. Formerly ague was very prevalent on some farms, but now, owing to drainage, is scarcely known. The most common diseases are fevers and consumptions. During the early part of winter and spring, the low grounds suffer considerably from hoar-frost. The height of the barometer is at the same station very variable, but may be stated on an average at 29.5. The thermometer has never been observed lower than 7°, and seldom attains 70° in the shade,—the mean temperature being about 46.6°. From the proximity of the Ochil Hills on the north, of the Lomond and Bishop Hills on the east, and Benarty on the south, the quantity of rain that falls in the parish, and throughout the county, is above the average for Scotland. Even when not actually raining, the atmosphere generally may be called moist, as Leslie's hygrometer rarely exceeds 25° in the finest weather, and on an average is not more than 15°. These observations were made at an altitude of 400 feet above the level of the sea, and only apply to it.

Polar lights are frequent during the end of autumn and beginning of winter. The east wind prevails for three or four months during spring and beginning of summer; and its influence is considerably felt, notwithstanding the high barrier interposed by the Lomond and Bishop hills. In the evenings the mist, or, as it is called in the district, the *eastern haar*, is observed slowly crowning their summits, or descending their sides in vast masses, and extending itself far to the west, beyond the boundaries of the county. But the prevailing wind is the south-west, which blows the greater part of the year with considerable violence. This circumstance may be attributed to the funnel-shaped nature of the district; the western portion of which being the low strath which stretches by Dollar to Alloa; the eastern, that by Strathmiglo into Fife.



*Hydrography.*—The North Queich is the only stream of any size that flows through the parish. There are several others, which, however, are of a trifling nature, except during *speats* occasioned by heavy rains. Almost all of these streams terminate in Loch Leven. The Queich, from its source to its mouth, is from five to six miles long, and its greatest breadth about twenty feet. It forms no cascades of any consequence; although, among the hills in the earlier part of its course, there are several very pretty waterfalls.

The Queich is a clear stream, and only remarkable as being one of the principal sources from which Loch Leven is replenished with trout,—this being the chief breeding stream, although much less so now than formerly, few trouts comparatively ascending from the lake as they did forty years ago. This may be accounted for, either from the straightening and sloping of the banks, which modern improvements have suggested,—thus destroying the shelter of the fish, and giving them a dislike to their former haunts,—or from the over-fishing of the lake, which lessens the number of emigrants; moreover, poaching is still carried on during close-time; and in a late examination into the cause of the deterioration of the fishings, consequent upon the drainage of the lake, it appeared, from the evidence of some noted poachers, that, after a September or October flood, many hundreds were killed during the night by spearing parties. These parties consist of three or four individuals; and their operations are carried on much in the same manner as those by salmon-poachers. One or two with spears take the middle of the stream; one on the bank carries a dark lanthorn, and the third and fourth the fish: the light is thrown upon the *ford* or *shallow*, and the fish, being in the act of spawning, are easily killed. Many fish are also caught at the dam-dikes belonging to the small mills high up the stream; indeed, whole sacks-full are taken out at some of these places in a single night.

There are abundance of springs in the parish, and water may be obtained by sinking wells at very small depths.

*Geology and Mineralogy.*—This parish is situated on the southern side of the Ochil-hills, and near the middle of the chain. The stratified rock is the same as the old red sandstone on the north border of the Fife coal-field, having its general dip south-east upon Loch Leven; though of course contorted in various places by the intrusion of igneous rocks, of which there is abundance. Near the lake, deposits of lacustrine silt are said to have been ob-

served, including the usual organic remains; and, in the lower grounds, beds of gravel may be seen in many places, all seeming to indicate that Loch Leven was once a much more extensive sheet of water than now. The central part of the parish contains two large masses of trap rock, one of greenstone on the east, varying in its character, and becoming tufaceous on the higher grounds in some places; and on the west, a much larger one of claystone porphyry, of a purple colour, extending for several miles, very hard and compact, where the country is level, but where it rises, becoming softer, amygdaloidal, and in some parts even tufaceous. Between these large masses of trap, there occur, here and there, compact felspar, clinkstone, and such like modifications of it. There is no limestone, nor any rock of the coal formation towards the west of the parish; but near the boundaries on the east, the limestone and grey sandstone are upraised on the western Lomond and Bishop-hill. No transition rocks appear towards the rise of the stratification on the north-west. Large veins of calc-spar and of sulphate of baryta occur in the greenstone. Heulandite, in small nodules, is found in the porphyry, and pretty large specimens of mesotype, where it becomes amygdaloidal. Laumonite and analcine abound in the neighbourhood, and therefore probably exist in the parish, although hitherto not observed. Scales of fish have been detected in the red sandstone. Iserine is occasionally found along the margin of the lake.

*Soil.*—The soil in the southern or more level part of the parish is a sandy clay, occasionally mixed with till or gravel, and a few fields may be termed loamy or alluvial. Upon the more elevated grounds, called the Braes of Orwell, the soil generally consists of a sharp gravel of good quality, excellently adapted to the culture of potatoes and turnips. Of the former, from 100 to 120 Linlithgow bolls have been raised upon a Scottish acre. Wheat, except upon a few fields of the first quality, has not generally been raised with success; and the more intelligent farmers prefer a crop of oats or barley, as affording a safer, and, upon the whole, a more profitable return. The average produce of oats, per Scotch acre, may be stated at from 6 to 10 Linlithgow bolls, that of barley from 5 to 8; although at times much higher returns are made. The better varieties of oats are generally in use, and the average weight in ordinary years may be stated at from 13 to 14 stones per Linlithgow boll. The quality of the barley has of late years much improved. Formerly it succeeded the oat crop, but it now



generally succeeds potatoes or turnips, and the average weight may be about 18 stones per Linlithgow boll, although often above 19 stones. In a competition in the year 1833, between a gentleman possessing extensive properties in the county of Clackmannan, and an heritor in this parish, as to which of the counties, Clackmannan or Kinross, that year would produce the best barley, it being agreed, that each should stand by the produce of his own farm, the bet was decided in favour of Kinross-shire, the weight being 58½ lbs. per imperial bushel. In the same year, some barley was raised in Portmoak, close to this parish, and when sold at Kirkaldy market was found to weigh 60 lbs. But this last was extremely well cleaned.

There are five or six quarries of red sandstone, one of which only, close to Milnathort, is wrought for sale. There are also several of green or whinstone; but these are principally used for furnishing stones for dikes, and metal for the roads.

*Zoology.*—Game was at one time abundant, but is now almost extirpated, owing to the remissness of the tax-office in not prosecuting and punishing the lower class of poachers. A few roe-deer are occasionally seen, but do not seem to breed in the parish. The other kinds of game are the grouse, blackcock, partridge, woodcock, snipe, wild-duck, hare, and rabbit. The only birds of considerable rarity which have been observed are the kingfisher (*Alcedo Ispida*) and the cross-bill (*Loxia curvirostra*.)

The principal kinds of fish are the common burn trout, Loch Leven trout, (a variety of the former,) eels, pike, and perch. But almost all these belong more properly to Loch Leven, which falls to be noticed under the account of the parish of Kinross.

*Botany.\**—Orwell contains few or none of the truly rare plants. The following may be mentioned, either because they are rare in the district, or common in the parish, although not generally diffused throughout Scotland.

Hippuris vulgaris	Myosotis palustris	Meum athamanticum
Veronica anagallis	—— repens	Peplis portula
Eleocharis acicularis	—— sylvatica	Luzula congesta
Briza media	—— arvensis	Alisma plantago
Dipsacus sylvestris	—— collina	—— ranunculoides
Scabiosa succisa, var. alba	—— versicolor	Trientalis Europea (sum-
flora	Echium violaceum	mit of Holeyton hill)
Galium Witheringii	Campanula latifolia	Erica tetralix, var. alba
Potamogeton†	Gentiana campestris	Vaccinium vitis Idæa
Radiola millegrana	Helosciadium inundatum	—— Oxyccocos

\* For the botanical department, as also for much other valuable information contained in this account, the compiler is indebted to Dr Walker Arnott of Arlary.

† Nearly all the Scotch species are found in Loch Leven.

Epilobium hirsutum	Subularia aquatica	Senecio viscosus
Polygonum minus	Nasturtium terrestre	Chrysanthemum segetum
Spergula subulata	Fumaria capreolata	Gymnadenia conopsea
Rubus idæus	----- media	Platanthera bifolia
----- saxatilis, (and no others)	Genista Anglica	----- chlorantha
Helianthemum vulgare	Ornithopus perpusillus	Carex curta
Ranunculus reptans	Hypericum humifusum	----- dioica
Mentha piperita	----- quadrangulum	----- flava
----- hirsuta	----- perforatum	----- Ederi
----- arvensis (and no others)	----- pulchrum	----- ampullacea
Origanum vulgare	(and no others)	Littorella lacustris
Galeopsis versicolor	Apargia hispida	Myriophyllum spicatum
Acinos vulgaris	Bidens (both species)	Pilularia globulifera.
Lepidium campestre	Gnaphalium (all but mar-	
----- Smithii	garitaceum and luteo-al-	
	bum)	
	Filago germanica	

The ferns are very few, and, with the exception of *Polypodium phegopteris*, are of the most common kind. Of the rarer mosses may be mentioned, *Orthotrichum Lyellii* and *pulchellum*; *Hypnum dendroides*, as well as *Bartramia recurvata*, occasionally are found in fructification. *Jungermannia exsecta* occurs abundantly in the neighbouring parish of Portmoak, a few yards from the boundary. There are no rare Algæ or Lichens: *Cetraria islandica* is abundant in some moors, but never with *apothecia*. Of the larger fungi, *Amanita muscaria* may be mentioned as abundant, while the common mushroom (*Agaricus campestris*) is rare; and of the smaller, *Puccinia buxi* has been detected in profusion, but only in one locality.

To complete this account, it is necessary to indicate some of those genera common in many places, but not found in this parish: thus there are no species of *Erythræa*; *Hyoscyamus*; *Solanum*; *Samolus*; *Jasione*; *Cuscuta*; *Pyrola*; *Saxifraga*, (except *S. granulata*); *Thalictrum*; *Scutellaria*; *Stachys*, (except *S. pallustris*); *Orobanche*; *Coronopus*; *Draba*, (except *D. verna*); *Corydalis*; *Lathyrus*, (except *L. pratensis*); *Vicia*, (except *V. cracca* and *sepium*); *Astragalus*; *Oxytropis*; *Lactuca*; *Crepis*; *Carduus* (and only the most common species of *Cnicus*); *Erigeron*; *Cineraria*; *Inula*; *Pulicaria*; *Anthemis*; *Listera*; *Epipactis*; *Malaxis*; *Pedistylus*; *Euphorbia*, (except *E. helioscopia* and *Peplus*); *Salix*, (except *S. fusca*, *aurita*, and *aquatica*); *Myrica*, or *Atriplex*, (except *A. patula*): *Chrysanthemum Leucanthemum*, although now in the greatest profusion throughout the parish, was unknown in the district until it was introduced along with the seed-corn, from a distance, forty or fifty years ago.

Within these last thirty years, there have been a great many plantations formed both on the low grounds, and on the southern



exposure of the Ochils. These consist principally of larch, Scots fir, spruce, oak, and ash.

## II.—CIVIL HISTORY.

The only account of the parish is that contained in Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account. There is no map of the parish by itself, but there are two very excellent ones of the county. One of these is by John Bell, in 1796; the other, by Sharp, Greenwood, and Fowler, in 1828. The latter, in particular, is remarkable for its minute accuracy.

Burleigh Castle has been the subject of several paintings, especially by Mr Robert Stein.

*Eminent Characters.*—Dr Coventry, the late Professor of Agriculture in the University of Edinburgh, possessed the property of Shanwell in this parish; and Dr Young of Rosetta, in whose arms Sir Ralph Abercromby breathed his last in Egypt, was a native of it. Balfour, Lord Burleigh, was also from this parish;—see *Douglas's Peerage*.

*Land-owners.*—There are about 27 heritors possessed of the valuation of L. 100 Scots or upwards, besides 35 others having a smaller valuation,—the smallest being L. 2, 10s. There are nine proprietors at present whose valued rent each is L. 200 or upwards, viz. Dr Walker Arnott of Arlary, L. 619 Scots; John Horn, Esq. of Thomanean, L. 552; Rev. G. Coventry of Shanwell, L. 403; Robert Neilson, Esq. of Hilton, L. 272; Misses Macturk of Craigow, L. 241; Heirs of the late Rev. Dr Belfrage of Colliston, L. 233; Rev. Mr Brown of Finderly, L. 233; Charles Stein, Esq. of Hattonburn, L. 212; and Mr Purves of Warroch, L. 200. The total valued rental is L. 6786, 16s. 8d. Scots. By far the greater proportion of the proprietors farm their own lands, at least in part.

*Parochial Registers.*—The date of the earliest entry in the parish register is 30th September 1688. It is not voluminous, owing to a great disinclination on the part of the people to come forward and register either births or deaths. This, however, is a little more attended to now than formerly.

*Antiquities.*—On the farm of Orwell there are two flat standing stones, firmly imbedded in the ground. They are situated east and west of each other, at fifteen yards distance; the one is  $6\frac{1}{2}$ , the other 8 feet high, and each  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet broad. Considerable mechanical power must have been required to bring them to their present position, no similar rock being nearer than the West Lomond, which is distant two miles, and the ground intervening is

rugged and uneven. No tradition exists in the district regarding their origin, though various conjectures have been formed ;—some supposing that they indicate a Danish battle ; others, that they form the remains of a Druidical circle. It may, however, be observed, that, in the same field, stone coffins have been occasionally turned up by the plough ; and a few years ago, the ground was in many places dug up by a neighbouring proprietor, when quantities of bones, much decomposed and mixed with charcoal, were discovered. The bones were about fifteen inches below the surface of the soil, and generally a layer of small stones above them. A request was once made to the Antiquarian Society of Edinburgh to send a deputation to examine the ground carefully ; but this was never accomplished.

The old church of Orwell, situated on the shore of Loch Leven, and near the south-east boundary of the parish, was only a chapel of ease in the reign of Robert I. ; who, says Sibbald, in his History of Fife and Kinross, gave to the monastery of Dunfermline *in puram et perpetuam eleemosynam, Ecclesiam de Kinross cum Capella de Urwell*. At what period it became the parish church is unknown.

Burleigh Castle, situated about a quarter of a mile to the south-east of the village of Milnathort, seems to be of considerable antiquity. It was at one period a place of great strength, consisting of a square, surrounded by a wall of ten feet in height, a deep ditch filled with water, and a redoubt. The castle itself is entirely in ruins, though part of the square still remains. About twenty years ago, two towers were standing ; one was of considerable height, and must have been very capacious. The south or small tower appears to have been the most modern structure of the whole. The date, 1582, with arms and the initials I. B., and below these M. B., doubtless of some of the possessors, were on the north corner of the west gable. The great tower must have been built at a much more remote period ; but no date or trace can be discovered from which a conjecture as to the time of its erection can be formed. The buildings on the north were probably erected about the same period as the southern tower. The plantations about Burleigh were at one time very extensive and regular ; but almost all the trees have either been cut down, overturned by the wind, or have died of old age. About thirty-five years ago, there was a considerable number quite hollowed out ; and one in particular, an ash, was known to have been so for upwards of a cen-



tury. This tree was noted for sheltering the Master of Burleigh when concealing himself from justice. In 1707, Robert, only son of the fourth Lord Burleigh, learning that Mr Henry Stenhouse, the schoolmaster of Inverkeithing, had married a girl, (for whom he, young Burleigh, had an attachment, and on account of which he had been sent abroad to travel,) and taken her from her father's house in his absence, on his return, went directly to the schoolmaster's house, and shot him through the left shoulder at his own door, in consequence of which Stenhouse died twelve days after. Mr Balfour was apprehended some time afterward, tried 4th August 1709, and sentenced 29th November to be beheaded. He, however, escaped from prison the 1st or 2d of January 1710, by exchanging clothes with his sister, and concealing himself successfully for some years. The hollow of the old ash was often the place of his retreat, and hence received the appellation of *Burleigh's Hole*. He afterwards engaged in the Rebellion of 1715, and was attainted.\* This tree was dismantled of its top by the high winds, during the winter 1808-9; and was completely blown down to within a few feet of the root on Old Handsel-Monday 1822. It stood about twenty feet distant from the west wall of the great tower.

Upon the top of the branch of the Ochils which bounds the parish on the north, stands Cairn-a-vain, once an immense collection of stones, though now much reduced in size,—the proprietor, thirty years since, having carried away many hundred cart-loads for the purpose of building dikes. An old rhyme, still remembered, alluded to a treasure supposed to be contained in it,—

In the Dryburn well, beneath a stane,  
You'll find the key of Cairn-a-vain,  
That will mak' a Scotland rich ane by ane.

However, no treasure was found, although eagerly expected by the workmen. There was a rude stone coffin in the centre of the cairn, containing an urn full of bones and charcoal, and amongst these was found a small ornament of bone about four inches long, very much resembling the figure of a cricket-bat, and notched in the edges; this was in much better preservation than the other bones. Clay urns full of burnt bones have also been found on the farm of Holeton, and in other places along the skirts of the Ochil hills.

### III.—POPULATION.

In 1755, the population amounted to 1891 persons; and in

\* Maclaurin's Criminal Trials; and Douglas' Peerage of Scotland.

1793, the numbers were, males, 811; females, 933; total, 1744.  
The population at each census was as follows:—

In 1801, males, 920	females, 1116	total, 2036
1811, do. 1005	do. 1167	do. 2172
1821, do. 1170	do. 1359	do. 2529
1831, do. 1512	do. 1493	do. 3005

The population returns, in 1831, included about 190 males, then employed in making a new line of road from Milnathort to Damhead, nearly all of whom did not previously reside in the parish, and left it when the work was completed. The causes of increase otherwise are supposed to be the improved state of agriculture giving more employment to labourers, and the greater salubrity of the atmosphere consequent on draining, the introduction of vaccination, &c.

The population of Milnathort (the rest of the parish being landward) was,

In 1801, males, 409	females, 550	total, 959
1811, do. 543	do. 656	do. 1199
1821, do. 656	do. 821	do. 1477
1831, do. 867	do. 905	do. 1772

The number of births, deaths, and proclamations of marriages for the last seven years is, according to the register, as follows:—

	Births.	Funerals.	Proclamation of marriages.
1832,	40	66	23
1833,	33	56	25
1834,	30	54	21
1835,	35	52	21
1836,	40	46	23
1837,	31	62	21
1838,	33	35	20

Many of the inhabitants never make any registration either of births or deaths; and several die in the parish who are buried and registered elsewhere.

No census since 1821 has been taken sufficient to enable us to state the average number of persons of different ages. In that year there were,—

Under 5 years,	males, 142	females, 178
From 5 to 10	do. 170	do. 148
10 to 15	do. 127	do. 150
15 to 20	do. 114	do. 125
20 to 30	do. 173	do. 240
30 to 40	do. 137	do. 162
40 to 50	do. 108	do. 136
50 to 60	do. 100	do. 99
60 to 70	do. 58	do. 79
70 to 80	do. 34	do. 30
80 to 90	do. 6	do. 11
90 to 100	do. 1	do. 1
100 and upwards,	none.	

There are about 50 proprietors of land, of the yearly value of



L. 50, and upwards. At last census (1831) there were 662 families. The number of each family is about  $4\frac{1}{2}$ .

In 1831, there were 455 inhabited houses; since then, at least, 15 or 20 additional ones have been built. In 1831, there were 7 uninhabited or building.

By the census of 1831, there were 207 males employed in agriculture; 357 males, retailers; 27 wholesale merchants, &c.; 236 labourers; 52 males not included in the above description; 91 female-servants, but there were no house male-servants.

There is 1 fatuous person, 1 deaf and dumb, and 1 blind.

*Character of the People, &c.*—The people, generally speaking, are intellectual, moral, and religious. Poaching has prevailed of late years to such an extent that scarcely any gentleman takes out a game certificate. Smuggling is now unknown in the parish.

#### IV.—INDUSTRY.

The number of imperial acres may, in round numbers, be stated at 13,500; \* of these about 8000 are either cultivated or occasionally in tillage; and from 600 to 700 in plantations, gardens, &c. The remaining 500 acres are almost in a state of nature, and, from lying principally along the heights and declivities of the Ochils, cannot be cultivated, at least with profit.

Larch, Scotch fir, spruce, ash, and oak, are the principal trees. Little attention is paid to the regular yearly thinning, felling, pruning, &c.

The arable land may average about L. 1, 10s. or L. 1, 12s. per imperial acre. The average rate of grazing is from L. 3, 10s. to L. 4 per annum for a cow, and L. 2, 10s. to L. 3 for an ox.

*Wages.*—Farm-servants in bothy receive about L. 12 in money,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  bolls of oatmeal, and 6 firlots of potatoes per annum, with a pint of milk daily. The married servants generally have cows, but their wages are lessened in proportion. The rate of labour is very various; in summer a stout and good workman will earn 2s. per day (providing his own victuals); or, during the hay harvest, 2s. 6d. In winter 1s. 6d. is a common rate. Women obtain from 9d. to 1s. 3d.

*Live-Stock.*—The Fife breed of black cattle is generally preferred, though in its pure state can hardly be obtained.

\* The number of Scots acres, as given by the writer of the former Statistical Account, was incorrect; for, if we take his own statement as to the number of miles, viz. 5 or 6 long, and 5 broad, this would give at the utmost 30 square miles, or 15,200 Scots acres. By careful measurement on a map, the number of imperial acres given above will be found tolerably accurate.

*Leases.*—The larger farms, especially those requiring improvement, are let for fifteen or nineteen years : smaller farms for seven years. Occasionally, single fields are let for three years, and according to a specified rotation of cropping. The farm-steadings formerly were in very bad order, but of late years much improvement has been effected in this particular, and nearly all are now in excellent condition. Thrashing-mills driven by horses are generally used ; two or three are driven by water, but none by steam. Most farms are now enclosed either by dry stone dikes, or beech or thorn hedges.

The principal manufacture was formerly cotton goods by the handloom ; but, owing to the low prices got, a new manufacture, that of tartan shawls and plaiding, has been introduced within the last twelvemonths, which has created a great stimulus. One or other of these gives employment to a great many of the inhabitants. As the new manufacture requires larger looms, and the dwelling-houses being generally unfit for such, one or two individuals have, as a speculation, erected large airy buildings in the village of Milnathort, in which any of the work people can have a stance. This is much more healthy than the old system. The hours for work depend on their own pleasure.

#### V.—PAROCHIAL ECONOMY.

*Market-town.*—Milnathort is the only market-town, and indeed there is no other village but itself in the parish. There has been a weekly corn-market (by sample) held here for nearly half a century, to which distillers at considerable distances send agents to purchase grain. It is likewise the only one in the county. About ten or twelve years ago, there was an attempt made to have a butter, cheese, and poultry-market ; but it did not succeed. Milnathort has no regular system of police ; but within these two years, a small constabulary paid force has been appointed for the county, and one of the officers has his residence in Milnathort, and in the day time perambulates the district assigned to him. Owing to the inhabitants of the towns and villages in the county not having hitherto contributed one farthing towards this establishment, but leaving all to be paid by the land-owners, it is not expected to be kept up much longer, unless they come forward and pay a reasonable proportion.

The mail-coaches pass through Milnathort twice a-day, but it is only a penny-post to Kinross. There are about fourteen miles of turnpike roads ; a similar number are kept up by statute labour



They are all in excellent condition. The bridge over the Queich, at the south end of Milnathort, is old, ill constructed, and by no means in good repair. The great north road trustees have not displayed their usual zealous attention by endeavouring to obviate this deformity, while other improvements of minor importance on this line of road have been carried into execution. The fences in the parish are in pretty good order.

The Aberdeen and Inverness mail-coaches, Saxe-Cobourg to Perth, and Defiance to Aberdeen, travel along the great north road from Edinburgh every day, but the Cobourg and Defiance do not run on Sundays. Occasionally, there are other stage-coaches on the road; and some time ago, one passed through Milnathort from Cupar to Stirling, but for some years it has ceased to run.

*Ecclesiastical State.*—The church, which was built in 1729, is situated half a mile from the nearest, and five miles from the farthest boundary of the parish; yet, as considered with reference to the dwellings of the parishioners, (the village of Milnathort containing half of the whole population,) it could not be more conveniently situated. There is a mortification by Captain Crawford of Pow-mylne for the benefit of the poor, which amounted, in 1722, to L. 100. \*

The church affords convenient accommodation for only 646 persons, although there are about 1600 connected with it; of these 599 are communicants. There are no seats unlet, and nearly the whole belong to the heritors, and are filled by themselves, their tenants, or servants. The Dissenting heritors let their seats, when not required by their tenants or servants, for 2s. or 2s. 6d. each. One gallery in the aisle belongs to the patron, who has permitted it to be let, and

\* The following extract is from the parish records:—"1722. The said 3d of May the Session met again, and after prayer, Major Henry Balfour of Dunbog deposite in the minister his hands, in name and behalf of Captain William Crawford of Pow-mylne, for the use of the poor in the parish of Orwell, born and living in the parish, virtuously and honestly, the sum of L. 100 Sterling money; the which sum to be lent out upon good security, and the a.-rent to be bestowed as it cometh into the managers of the said mortification. The managers appointed by the said Captain Crawford, being Sir Thomas Bruce of Kinross and his heirs, the minister of the parish of Orwell and his successors, ministers, and Captain Crawford and his heirs, Robert Coventry, feuar in Arlary, Robert Balfour in Orwell, William Shaw, feuar in Seggie, and George Arnott of Holeton, and failing any of these four by death, the survivors to choose others in their room, (a power being reserved by the Captain for himself, or his heirs and successors, to add to the number of managers, as he or they shall find meet.) The managers being likewise convened, and considering this pious, generous, and honourable deed of Captain Crawford, recommended it to the minister to write a letter of thanks, in name of the managers, to the Captain for his singular liberality, and to assure him that all due care shall be taken that the samen be managed and disposed so as it may answer his good and laudable design."

the proceeds given to the poor. It contains about 90 sittings; the front seats are let at 2s., the others at 6d. each. The poor have seats in this loft *gratis*. The church is by far too small for the congregation, and the demand for more accommodation is rapidly encreasing: 150 additional sittings at least are required, and nearly all of these for the working classes. The want of accommodation in the parish church deprives many of the parishioners of the means of public worship, or compels them to attend Dissenting churches. The attendance at church is nearly the same throughout the year; none of the parishioners belonging to the Establishment attend worship out of the parish.

The manse was built in 1788, and, though repaired in 1825, is still very incommodious. The sum of L. 200, judiciously laid out, would render it very comfortable. The amount of stipend is L. 68, 7s. 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ d. in money; 69 bolls, 2 firlots, 1 peck, 2 $\frac{1}{2}$  lippies meal; 46 bolls, 2 firlots, 3 pecks, and 2 $\frac{3}{4}$  lippes barley; and 7 bolls, 2 firlots oats. There is also a glebe worth about L. 30 per annum.

There are two Dissenting places of worship; the one belonging to the Original Burgher Associate Synod: the other to the United Associate Synod. Both these places of worship are in the village of Milnathort; and the number of individuals attending them, as given up to the Church Commission in December 1837, was as follows, viz.—at the former, average attendance, 300; persons in the habit of attending, 450; communicants, little more than 300: the average attendance at the United Secession was about 400; those in the habit of attending, 580; communicants, 485. The actual numbers belonging to these establishments are supposed to be, to the one, 472; to the other, 714; but some of these may reside in other parishes.\*

*Education.*—There are 6 schools in the parish, 1 parochial or endowed school, and 5 not endowed. Of these two are female schools: some of them are at the western extremity of the parish; and, within a few yards of the eastern boundary, there is one situated in the parish of Strathmiglo, so that there are ample means of education.

The parochial school is in Milnathort, and the branches here

\* "The primary cause of there being Seceders in this parish, was a Mr Mair, a minister of the Establishment, who, changing his opinions, preached up the erroneous doctrine of universal redemption, and was, in consequence of this, dismissed from his charge; notwithstanding of this, he still continued in the village, preaching this doctrine till the day of his death, to his adherents, who were very numerous, and who built that large chapel presently occupied by the Burghers."—Sir John Sinclair's Statistical Account, Vol. xx. p. 194.



generally taught are, English, writing, arithmetic, practical mathematics, geography and Latin, and sometimes Greek and French. In the unendowed schools attention is chiefly paid to the four first branches. The salary of the parochial schoolmaster is L. 34, 4s. 4½d., and the school fees average about L. 50. The lowest rate is, for English, 2s. 6d. per quarter; writing and English, 3s. 6d.; arithmetic with the two former, 4s. 6d.; Latin with any of the preceding, 6s.; mathematics, book-keeping, with the addition of any or all of those enumerated, 7s. 6d. The schoolmaster's house was built within the last thirty years. It consists of two stories, and is sufficient to enable him to keep boarders. He has besides all the legal accommodations.

The people in general are alive to the benefits of education. There are almost none between six and fifteen years of age who cannot read or write; and none above fifteen in that situation, so far as is known. There is no part of the parish so distant as to prevent the children attending either the parish school or one of the unendowed seminaries.

The morals of the lowest classes have not improved of late years, but this is not to be attributed to the greater facilities for education. In consequence of the low price of spirits within these last six or eight years, there have been more petty crime and drunkenness than was formerly known.

There is a library in the village, instituted in 1797, called the Milnathort Library. This belongs at present to about forty different individuals, in, or connected with the parish, who contribute 6s. 6d. annually towards it. Any one, however, may read the books by paying 1s. a-month, or 8s. a-year. The annual funds for the purchase of books, after defraying the ordinary expenses, amount, for the average of the last ten years, to L. 13. It is managed by a small committee of seven persons appointed annually, and at present consists of 1270 volumes. Being the oldest library in the county, it received, about four years ago, a donation from the Record Commission Court of London, of all the published acts, retours, and other records of England and Scotland, composing 52 folio volumes. Besides this, there is also a session library, instituted 1st January 1832, attached to the Established Church, and consisting of between 300 and 500 volumes. It is kept up by a collection at the church door on the first Sabbath of each year; and every individual belonging to the congregation is allowed to make use of it, on contributing 1s. annually. The

books are given out to be read every Sabbath, before public worship, by one of the elders ; and the poor are allowed to read the books free of expense. It is not confined to religious works, but comprehends others of general information, such as narratives of voyages, travels, &c. There are also two other libraries ; the one a subscription library, belonging to the United Secession, instituted in 1833, to which each family using it contributes 2s. annually ; the other, conducted on similar principles, is a congregational library, belonging to the Original Burghers.

There are no institutions or societies in the parish ; but one gentleman, it may be observed, has an extensive private collection of dried plants, containing upwards of 20,000 species.

*Saving Bank.*—There was formerly a Saving Bank in the county, but, owing to the stopping of the Stirling Bank, in which much of the money was deposited, the institution was broken up. During last year, another, nearly on the Government plan, was set agoing. The head office is in Kinross, and there are also branches in Milnathort and Cleish. As, however, it has been a few months only in existence, nothing can be stated as to its prospects of success.

*Poor.*—In the former Statistical Account it is said, “ There are few poor on the roll, as the other three places of worship support their own poor,”—a statement totally inapplicable to the present day. Formerly, the poor had a feeling of independence, declining all assistance so long as they could earn a pittance by their own exertions, and their relatives were desirous of aiding them rather than see their names on the poor’s roll. Not so now. The applications for assistance every year are becoming more and more numerous, and nothing is heard but grumbling that they are not getting so much as some of their acquaintances on the roll. Indeed, very near relatives, who, by law, might perhaps be compelled to assist, contribute nothing. Formerly, the money collected at the church-door was sufficient not only to support all the poor, but, by good management, a sum was amassed, which, about forty years ago, was laid out in purchasing a piece of land. Now, owing to the poor belonging to the Secession churches coming to the Orwell kirk-session for relief, from the collections at the church-door not proportionally increasing, (many passing by without bestowing one farthing, alleging that the heritors, and not they, ought to give,) and others contributing far below their means, there is not a sufficiency of funds to support the poor, even with the rent



derived from the purchased land, which at present amounts to L. 56 Sterling. As it is doubtful whether a legal assessment can be laid on, so long as there is property belonging to the poor, an attempt was made about a year ago to lay on a voluntary assessment, in the expectation that those heritors who were either non-resident or did not attend the parish church, and who had hitherto contributed little or nothing, would come forward in a handsome manner. This measure failed; few of those individuals having given more than what by law they could have been compelled to pay, and others gave nothing whatever. A similar attempt is not therefore likely again to be made, and ere long the property must be sold; and when this happens, the few hundred pounds obtained will speedily vanish, demands to be put on the poor's roll will rapidly increase, and a legal assessment be the result.

The average number of paupers on the *permanent* roll, exclusive of lunatics in confinement, and of persons receiving occasional relief, were in 1835, 23 who received L. 78, 9s. 9d.; in 1836, 19 who received L. 83, 1s. 1d.; in 1837, 26 who received L. 81, 8s. 6d. Those who received occasional relief in 1835 were 27, who got L. 9, 3s. 5d.; in 1836, 32 received L. 10, 13s. 6d.; in 1837, 40 received L. 20, 16s. 8½d. In 1837, there was one lunatic in confinement, the cost of which was L. 25, 18s. 2d.

The annual amount of collections at the church-door were as follows:—1835, L. 29, 6s. 8d.; 1836, L. 29, 9s. 9d.; 1837, L. 29, 19s. 3d. During these years, there were also voluntary contributions to the amount of—1835, L. 3, 5s. 1d.; 1836, L. 3, 8s. 8½d.; and 1837, L. 54, 7s. 5d. The mortcloth and other sessional dues and rent of poor's land amounted, in 1835, to L. 62, 15s.; 1836, to L. 62, 6s. 6d.; and in 1837, to L. 63, 14s. 6d. The collections are applied to the relief of the poor of all denominations in the parish; under deduction of a salary of L. 3, 3s. to the session-clerk; L. 3 to the precentor; and to the beadle L. 1, 1s. The books, containing a statement of these funds, are inspected twice a year by a joint committee of the kirk-session and heritors.

The parish is much annoyed by vagrants, such as shipwrecked sailors, and persons disbanded from manufacturing establishments, &c. soliciting relief.

*Fairs.*—There are six markets or fairs held during the year in the village of Milnathort. Two of these, (one on the Thursday before Christmas, the other on the second Thursday of February), are held for the sale of fat cattle only. The other four are gene-

ral markets for cattle, sheep, and horses, and take place in the beginning of May, July, and November, and end of August.

*Inns and Alehouses.*—There are no less than 14 spirit licenses granted for this parish. Of these, 5 are issued to inns or public-houses in the village of Milnathort; seven grocers in the village also allow spirits to be consumed on their premises; and there are two public-houses in the landward part of the parish. This facility of obtaining spirituous liquors, not to mention the cheapness of the article, while it has given an effectual check to smuggling, has increased their consumption, and greatly deteriorated the morals of the lower orders; and instances of late have occurred of some abandoned wretches stealing and selling mere trifles to obtain the few pence requisite to purchase a dram.

*Fuel.*—Almost the only kind of fuel now used is coal, which is obtained in several places in the county of Fife, at no great distance from the borders of Kinross-shire. The distance of the pits from Milnathort is from seven to nine miles. The price is variable, but at present the cost may be stated at 7s. or 7s. 6d. per ton at the pit mouth. A cart load weighs 84 stone Dutch, or 13 cwt. and 14 lbs.; and when contracted for on behalf of the poor, it varies from 7s. to 8s. 6d., including carriage and tolls.

There is no distillery now in the parish. The one belonging to Mr Stein of Hattonburn, noticed in the former Statistical Account, having been converted into a potato-flour or farina manufactory.

#### MISCELLANEOUS OBSERVATIONS.

Since the former Statistical Account was written, and, indeed, within the last thirty years, great alterations have taken place owing to an extensive system of draining, and a more skilful method of husbandry. Many fields, which at that period were totally useless, may now be seen to produce excellent crops. The greater part of the parish is dry; yet, from the close-bottomed nature of many fields, improvement still may be expected from wedge-draining, as yet partially introduced; and it is probable that this will be more attended to, as the returns to those farmers who have thoroughly practised it have been satisfactory. The roads are all in excellent order, and lime is to be had at a convenient distance, and at no great expense. Taking these circumstances into view, together with the moderate rate of wages, the agriculturist has every facility to carry on his improvements.

*April 1839.*



## GENERAL OBSERVATIONS ON THE COUNTY OF KINROSS.

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SIR ROBERT SIBBALD, in his History of Fife and Kinross, tells us, that, in the ancient language of the Picts, the county of Fife was called Ross, "which signifieth a peninsula," and adds, "that the upper part of this territory, formed by the Friths of Forth and Tay, got the name of *Keen-Ross*, which means the head of the peninsula." He does not, however, adduce a shadow of evidence to satisfy us that the county of Fife was at any period called Ross; and we are rather inclined to suppose, that the origin of the word Kinross arose entirely from some local circumstance.

This county lies between  $3^{\circ} 14'$  and  $3^{\circ} 35'$  west longitude, and between  $56^{\circ} 9'$  and  $56^{\circ} 18'$  north latitude. From the eastmost point at Auchmoor Bridge over the River Leven to the westmost part, where it is bounded by the Devon, it does not exceed twelve miles in extent; and from Kelty-Bridge, on the south to Damhead on the north, is scarcely ten. The area of the whole county does not exceed seventy square miles, or 44,800 imperial acres; and thus it is one of the smallest shires in Scotland. It is bounded on the north, by the Ochil-hills, which separate the district from Strathearn; on the east, by the Lomond-hills; and the south-east and south-west boundaries run partly along the summit of Benarty, and partly along the flat ground to a point on Kelty-burn, whence the Cleish-hills, extending to the west, divide it from Fife. Thus, though the boundaries are generally hilly, there is a level opening at Blair-Adam, between Benarty and the Cleish-hills, through which the great north road passes; there is another opening to the north-east, between the Ochil and Lomond-hills, leading towards Cupar-Fife; and a third level, more extensive than any of the former, opens to the west towards Stirling, at the Crook of Devon. In addition to these, there is a narrow pass through which the River Leven flows from the loch.

Previous to the year 1426, the greater part of this county was

incorporated with Fifeshire, and at the period when the disjunction took place, it comprised only the parishes of Kinross, Orwell, and Portmoak; but in the year 1685, the King and estates in Parliament, in consideration of the smallness of the county, added Cleish, Tulliebole, and some lands lying in Perthshire. These constituted the county or sheriffdom of Kinross. But although separated from Fife, the same Sheriff-depute was placed over both, in the same way as one was placed over Stirling and Clackmannan. This state of matters continued till the year 1807, when the counties of Clackmannan and Kinross were united into one Sheriffdom.—Kinross-shire at present comprehends only four entire parishes, with portions of three others, which will be noticed under the county of Perth, to which they chiefly belong.

The greater part of this small territory is dry, resting on a sharp gravel, intermingled with small portions of clayey loam, and a good deal of it is of a moorish quality. The climate, though cold and wet, owing to the general elevation of the district, has been much improved by an extensive system of drainage, and is upon the whole considered healthy,—the people being vigorous and subject to few maladies. Indeed, the whole county till a very recent period was wild and barren, which circumstance has been attributed to the local peculiarity of the district being divided into small farms—almost every single farm being a separate property, and generally possessed by its owner. Thus the number of small proprietors are greater here in proportion to the size of the district than elsewhere. These farms were feued out chiefly about the end of the seventeenth or beginning of the last century for a feu-duty. “The marches of the various farms,” it is stated in Chambers’ *Gazetteer*, “not having been well defined, and being distracted by the practice of run-rig, it was long before the county manifested very active signs of improvement. Within the recollection of persons of middle life, few districts were worse cultivated or less profitable than Kinross-shire; but various circumstances, among which is included the good example shown by neighbours, ultimately induced a spirited change, and now, from less to more, the agriculture, the mode of draining, enclosing, and planting can vie with those of Fife, or most other places.” The whole productive land is about four-fifths of the whole county, and when let is on leases generally from fourteen to twenty-one years, the rent for the most part being a fixed annual sum. The size of the farms vary from 50 to 300 acres—the corn crops being oats and barley, though occasionally



on the better soils wheat is cultivated. Potatoes, turnips, clovers, and rye-grass are raised all over the county. A fair proportion of these farms is in grass, for which the soil and climate are both favourable. The pastures of the cultivated land are occupied by cattle, but sheep are kept in numbers only on the Cleish and Ochil-hills. It is supposed that about 3000 acres are under wood, the most extensive plantations being on Blair-Adam. These were begun in 1733, and at the present time cover about 1300 acres, consisting of oak, ash, larch, elm, beech, spruce, silver and Scotch fir; the last, however, it is understood, does not grow well in exposed situations. The mineralogy of the shire is of little importance. Coal has been found on the south, where the county joins Fifeshire, but is not wrought in this county. Freestone quarries of excellent quality are likewise wrought in the parish of Cleish, and whinstone is almost every where to be met with. To the north of Kinross, red freestone is the geological formation of the district, and limestone, in great profusion, is obtained from the Lomond-hills. The roads throughout the county are all good, and none in Scotland can surpass in excellence the great north road, which runs through Kinross, the county town. This town is the only one in the shire, but there is a large and populous village, about a mile to the north, called Milnathort. At both these places, several annual fairs are held, and at the latter a weekly corn-market for the sale of grain. The manufacture of cutlery was formerly carried on in Kinross, but has for a long period been entirely abandoned. A great many people are employed in weaving cotton, chiefly by the manufacturers of Glasgow; and within the last twelve months, two or three companies belonging to Kinross and Milnathort, have set agoing the manufacture of tartan shawls and plaids, which hitherto appears to have met with success.

The annual value of real property in 1815, was L. 25,805, and now it cannot be estimated at less than L. 35,000 or L. 40,000.

Legal assessments for the poor are seldom resorted to, the heritors preferring to contribute according to their rentals what sums may be necessary.

In this county there are a few small rivulets, which, with the exception of the Leven, act as feeders to the loch. This sheet of water lies in the south-east part of the county, at an elevation of about 360 feet above the level of the sea, and is emptied by the stream just alluded to, which flows in an easterly direction through Fifeshire, till it disembogues itself into Largo Bay. Loch

Leven is from eight to nine miles in circumference, and covers about 4000 acres; though inferior in magnitude and picturesque beauty to some of the Highland lochs, it is still a noble expanse of water. Trout, pike, perch, and eel, are found here in abundance. It is of an irregular oval figure, possessing several islets, of which only two are worth noticing,—the one, extending to about five acres, is situated within a short distance of the shore at Kinross, and here are the remains of the castle, once the prison of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scots; the other, called St Serf's Isle, having a flat, bare appearance, is near the south-east extremity of the loch. On the latter island there was a priory dedicated to St Serf or Servanus, which must have been placed here upwards of 1000 years ago, but no vestige of it is now to be seen. A considerable number of cattle and sheep are pastured upon this island, which, since the draining of the loch, immediately about to be noticed, extends to upwards of 100 acres. On the other island, containing the castle, the main tower of which, it may be observed, appears to be about the same size as the border towers, a fortlet was first built by Congal, a valiant Pictish King, who reigned towards the end of the fifth century. At what period the castle itself was erected we are not informed, but it makes an early appearance in our history. In the year 1335 it was defended by Alan de Vipont, a Scottish royalist, against a John de Strivilin, apparently a Scottishman, but who acted in behalf of Baliol. A fort was erected in the churchyard of Kinross, on a neighbouring promontory, and at the lower end of the lake, where the water issues from it, an embankment was thrown across with the view of laying the island and castle under water, and thereby compelling the besieged to surrender. Vipont took the opportunity of the English General being absent on some pious duty at Dunfermline, and broke through this barrier to the utter confusion and discomfiture of the English. Such is the story told by Buchanan, but it does not appear probable; for an embankment such as would inconvenience the besieged, must, from the nature of the ground, have also annoyed the blockading party on the shore at Kinross. And when we consider the magnitude of the operations required—the strength of the works necessary—and the time requisite for accumulating the water, we are inclined to place little reliance in the tale, considering that it happened in the time of war and slender resources. It appears to us, however, that the termination of the lake formerly must have been at the east end of the level carse through which the stream of the Leven flows.



Here even now the rising grounds on each side almost meet together, and in all likelihood the natural barrier having, from some cause or other, given way, the waters of the loch receded to their lowest level, and thus the carse was formed.

The drainage of the loch, which has lately been effected, had engaged the attention of many of the proprietors in the neighbourhood for half a century ; but it was only within the last twelve years that any attempt was seriously made to get this object accomplished. An act of Parliament was at length obtained ; and though the operations have now been completed at an expense of some L. 40,000, it is very questionable whether the advantages, supposed to arise from the measure, have not been greatly exaggerated. A few proprietors may probably feel its good effects ; but, in general, the ground recovered, which may be about 1000 acres in all, is poor.—that on the eastern side, which comprises the greater proportion, being composed of a covering of whitish sand, having generally a subsoil of bluish tilly sand, of a most unproductive quality. If any material advantage arise from the operations, it must be to the land-owners along the river, who have obtained a greater facility for draining ; or to the mill-proprietors, who, indeed, will chiefly reap the advantage ; and apparently endless disputes have already arisen as to the proportions of the expense which each party interested has to pay.

The features of the county, in general, are not very imposing, yet still they have a few charms ; nor do we know any thing more beautiful than the view to be obtained from the rising ground on the eastern side of Loch Leven in an autumnal morning, when the mist which has enveloped the whole county may be seen gradually ascending from the lake, under the influence of the rising sun, and unfolding to the eye of the traveller, the calm unruffled surface of the waters, with the gray and lonely castle—connected with many a strange tale in our history—reposing in its bosom ; as the mist clears away, the hills are seen girding on the whole, which presents at such a moment a picture highly interesting and sublime.

The following shows the state of the population at different periods :—

Population in 1755,	.	5944
1791,	.	6181
1801,	.	6725
1811,	.	7245
1821,	.	7762
1831,	.	9072

And the following, applicable to the year 1831, may not be inappropriate in this place :—

Area in statute miles and acres ; 70 square miles, or 44,800 acres.

Inhabited houses,	1524
Number of families chiefly employed in agriculture,	440
trade, manufactures, and handicraft,	819
All other families not comprised in the two preceding classes,	700
Males,	4519
Females,	4553
Number of inhabitants to each square mile,	129
persons corresponding to each family,	44
house,	6

Until the passing of the Reform Act in 1832, Kinross-shire returned a member to serve in Parliament only alternately with Clackmannan, and the number of freeholders then on the roll was 21. The constituency at present is 498, and that of Clackmannan 797 ; both counties uniting in sending a representative to Parliament.



The following Table shows the Ecclesiastical State of the Parishes in the County of Kinross.

Parish.	Families belong- ing to Estab. Church.	Families of Dis- senters & Seced- ing to Estab. Church.	Persons belong- ing to Church.	Dissenters and Seceders.	Parochial Ministers' Stipend.	Schools in Parish.	Par. Schoolmasters' Emoluments.			Annual amount of contributions for Poor.		
							Salary.	Fees.	Total.	From church Collections	From assess- ment or vo- luntary contri- butions by Heritors.	Total.
Kinross,	...	...	1240	...	Barley 31 b. 6 p. Meal 94 b. $\frac{1}{4}$ p. & L. 94, 6s. 7 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	8	L. 34, 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	L. 55	L. 89, 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	L. 30 to L. 36.		
Portmoak,	219	127	...	...	L. 254, 2s. 5d.	4	L. 34, 4s.	...	...	...	Int. of L. 620.	
Cleish,	...	...	620	60	L. 163, 2s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	3	L. 34, 4s. 4d.	L. 36	L. 70, 4s. 4d.	...	...	L. 25, 15s. 11d.*
Orwell,	...	...	1822†	1186	L. 155, 19s. 11d.	6	L. 34, 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	L. 50	L. 84, 4s. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	L. 29, 8s. 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.	L. 62, 0s. 9d.	L. 91, 8s. 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ d.†

\* The disbursements, on an average of seven years, amount to L. 43, 1s. 5d.—the amount required to make up the deficiency being contributed by the heritors.

† This is the balance; but many go out of the parish or do not attend any church.

‡ There was a sum of L. 54, 7s. 5d. collected by voluntary subscription for the poor in 1837, but this cannot be reckoned in the average. The sum in the table is the average of the years 1835 and 1836.

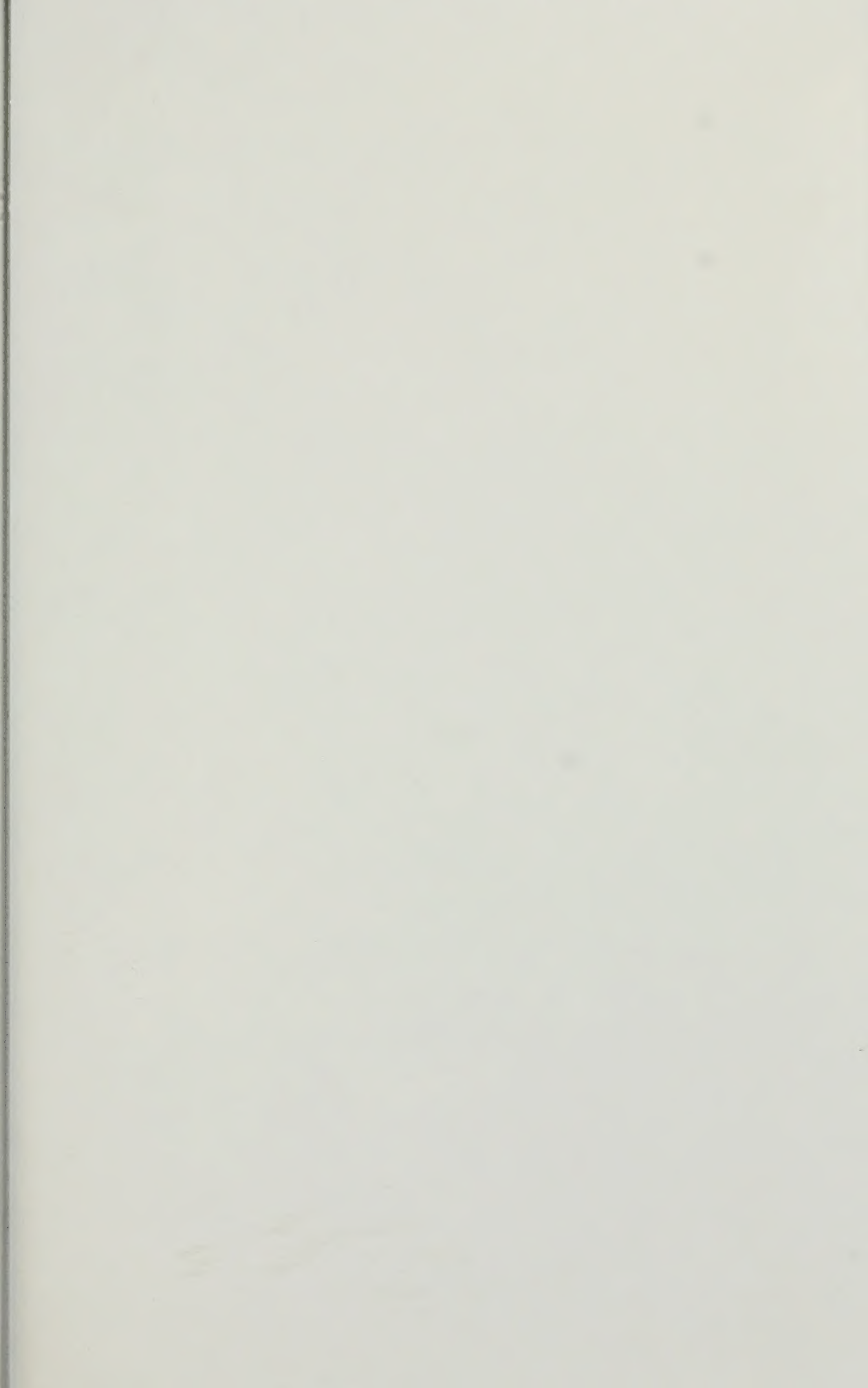
May 1839.

# INDEX.

- Agriculture and rural economy, 16, 34, 42, 62  
 Aldie bog, drainage of, 47  
 Antiquities, 11, 33, 41, 64  
 Benartie, hill of, 30  
 Bishop's hill, the, 30  
 Blair, Adam 40, 42—improvements at, 48  
 Botany, 8, 40, 56  
 Bruce, Michael, his residence at Cleish, 41  
 Bruce, Sir William, the architect, 8  
 Burleigh castle, ruins of, 59  
 Burleigh, Lord, 58  
 Burleigh, the master of, condemned for murder, 60  
 Burying-place, ancient, at Gallows know, 12  
 Cairn-a-vain, relics found at, 60  
 Castle island, the, in Lochleven, 3  
 Character and habits of the population, 15, 34, 42, 62  
 Churches connected with the Establishment, see Ecclesiastical Statistics.  
 Cleish, parish of, 38—ruins of the Place of, 41  
 Climate, see Meteorology.  
 Coins, ancient British, found at Col-don, 11  
 Collieries at Portmoak, 37—at Blair Adam, 39  
 Coventry, Professor, birth-place of, 58  
 Crawford, Captain, bequest by, for the poor of Orwell, 64  
 Danish remains in the parish of Orwell, 59  
 Dissenters and Dissenting chapels, 22 36, 50, 65  
 Dowhill house, ruins of, 41  
 Drainage of Aldie bog, 47—of Loch-leven, 2, 34, 74  
 Draining, important improvements by, 43  
 Dumglow hill, 38—remains of ancient camp on, 41  
 Education, statistics of, 24, 36, 50, 65  
 Ecclesiastical statistics, 24, 36, 50, 64  
 Fairs and markets, 27, 68  
 Fisheries, the trout, &c. of Lochleven, 7—effects of its drainage on, 6  
 Freestone, see quarries.  
 Gairney water, the, 39—deepening of its channel, 43  
 Gallows know, skeletons found at, 12  
 Geology and mineralogy, 4, 31, 39, 54  
 Grahame, George, bequest by, for poor of Kinross, 27  
 Inch island, the, in Lochleven, 3, 73  
 Ingan hills, the, 38  
 Inns and alehouses, and their effects, 27, 69  
 Islands in Lochleven, 3, 73  
 Keiry crags, the, 42  
 Kinross-shire, general observations on, 70  
 Kinross, origin of the name, 1—parish of, 1—ministers of, from the Reformation, 9  
 Kinross, town of, 15, 19—church, 21—gas company, 28—prison, 27  
 Libraries and literature, 25, 66  
 Limestone, quarries of, at Benartie, 31, 35—at Scarhill, 39  
 Live-stock, breeds of, 44  
 Loch Glow, 39  
 Lochleven, 2, 72—drainage of, 2, 34, 74—effects of the drainage on the fisheries, 6—fisheries of, 7  
 Lochleven castle, history of, 12—keys of, found in the loch, 13  
 Manufactures, 18, 35  
 Maryburgh, village of, 50  
 Meteorology and climate, 1, 38, 53  
 Mills, various, in parish of Kinross, 4  
 Milnathort quarries, 56—village of, 61, 63—library, 60  
 Mineralogy, see Geology  
 Nivingstone house, 41—quarries, 44  
 Orwell or Urwell, parish of, 52—old church of, 59  
 Parchment manufactory at Portmoak, 35  
 Paupers and pauperism, 26, 37, 51, 57  
 Pitcairn, Robert, the commendator of Dunfermline abbey, 10  
 Place of Cleish, ruins of, 41  
 Plantations and planting, 16, 33, 72  
 Poaching, prevalence of, 15  
 Poor, management of the, 26, 37, 51, 67  
 Population returns, 15, 33, 42, 60  
 Population, character of, 15, 34, 42, 62  
 Portmoak, parish of, 30  
 Priory of St Serf, ruins of, 33, 73  
 Powburn, the, 45

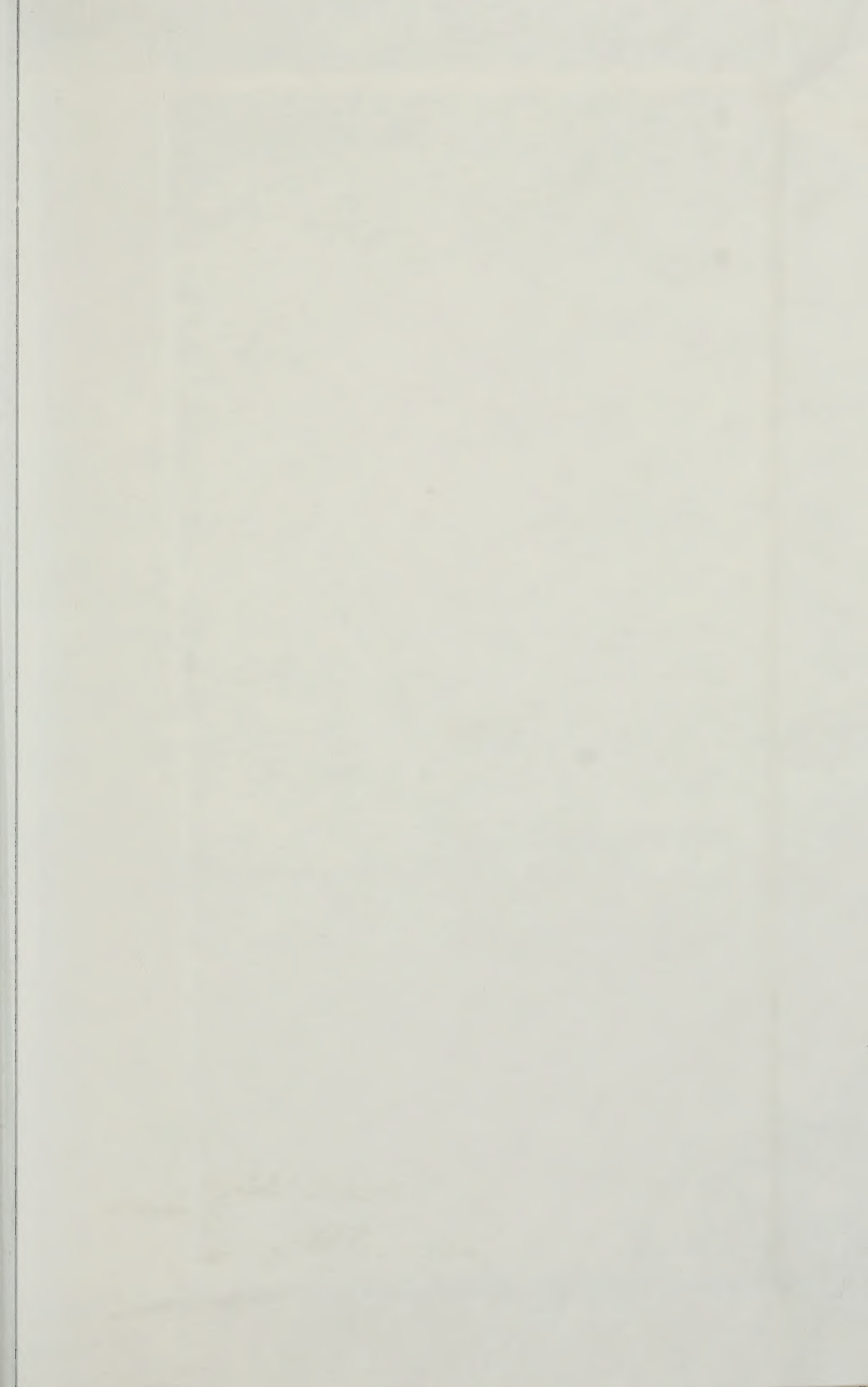


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| Quarries, freestone, 39, 44, 56—lime-<br>stone, 31, 39<br>Queich water, the, 54<br>St Serf's Isle, 3, 73—ruins of priory on,<br>33, 73<br>Savings banks, 25, 67<br>Schools, parochial, &c., see Education.<br>Scotland well, village of, 31—ruins of<br>chapel at, 33<br>Seal of James IV. found at West Green,<br>11<br>Societies, friendly, 25—religious, 23 | Stone coffins found at Orwell, 59<br>Swedish crossbill, appearance of at<br>Lochleven, 8<br>Tartans, manufactory of, 18<br>Thomson, Professor, birth-place of, 9<br>Trout, the Lochleven, 7<br>Urwell, see Orwell.<br>Wages, rates of, 44, 62<br>Woods, see Plantations.<br>Young, Dr, of Rosetta, birth-place of,<br>58<br>Zoology, 6, 32, 56 |
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